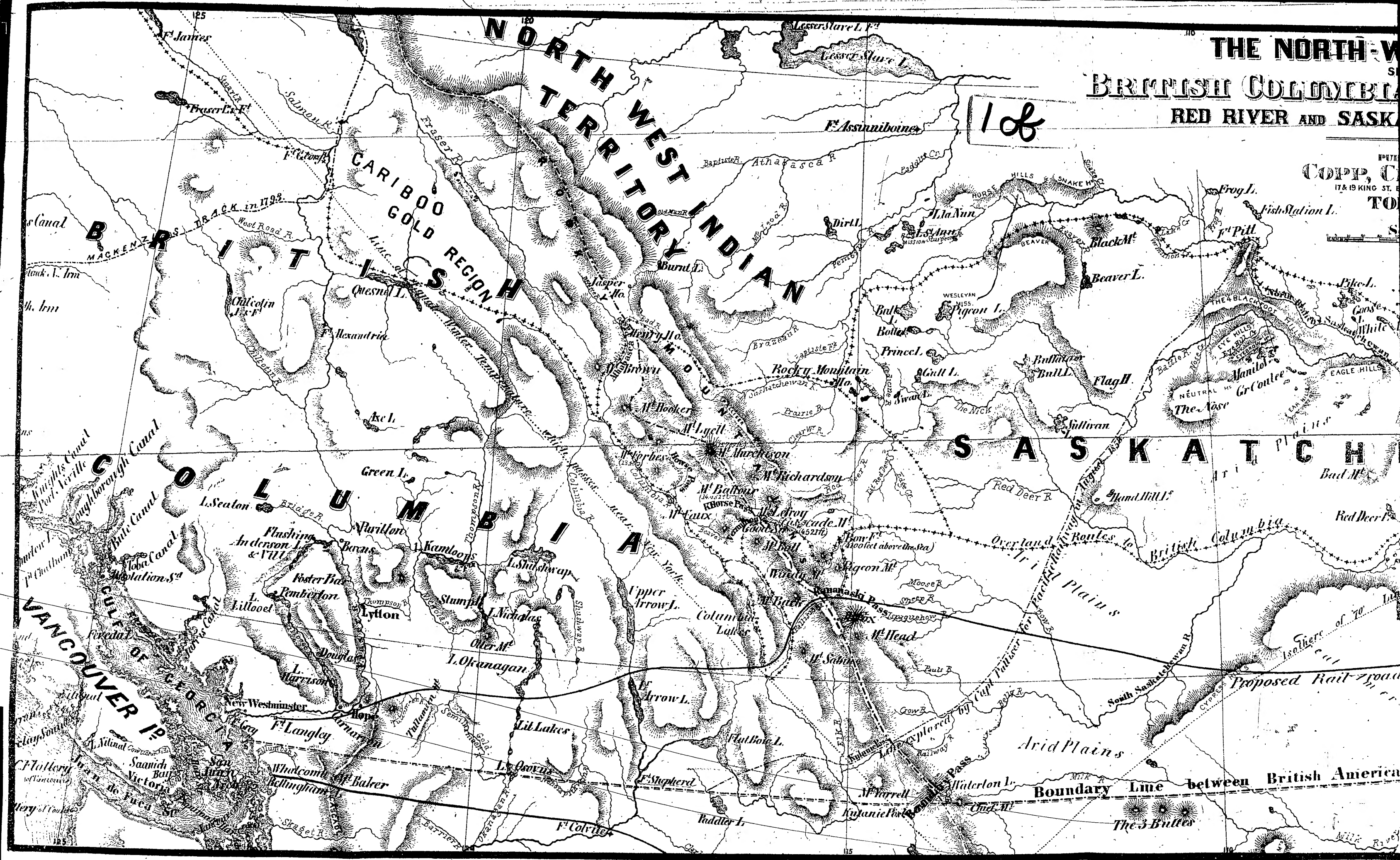


THE NORTH-WEST
BRITISH COLUMBIA
RED RIVER AND SASKATCHEWAN

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THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY

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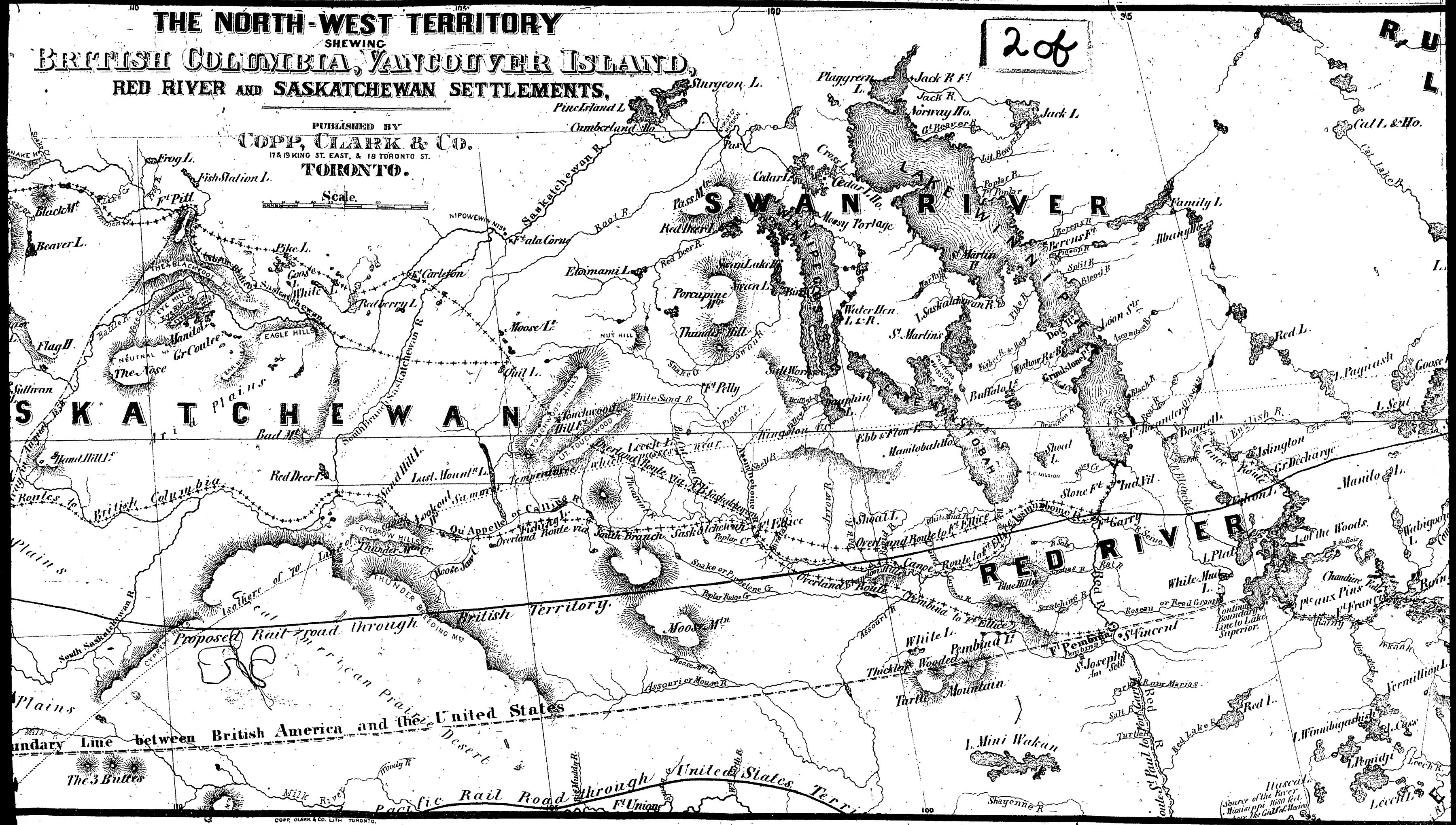
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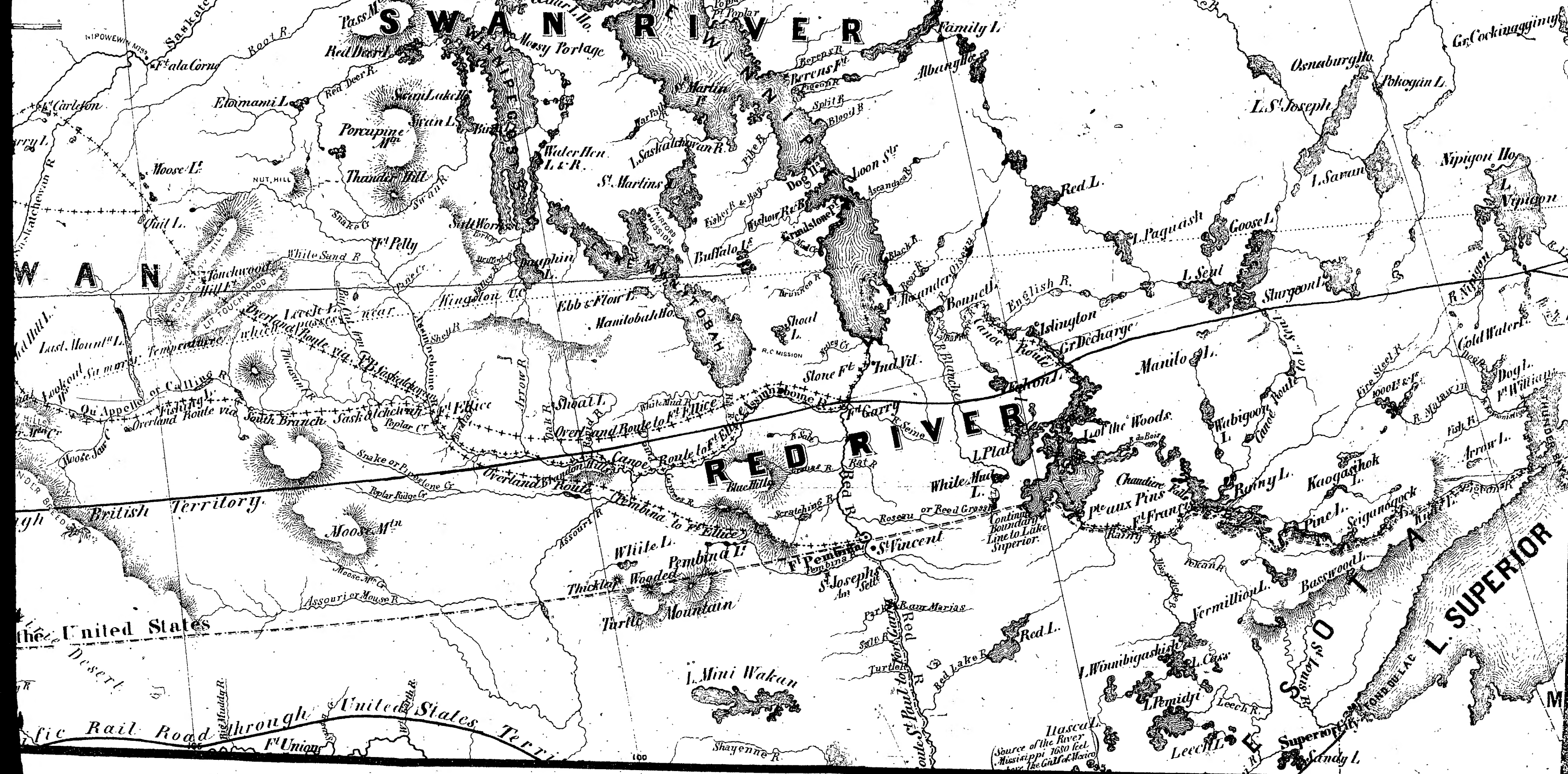
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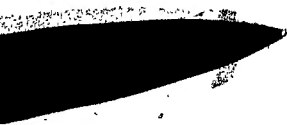
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ATLANTIC ISLAND,
NEW SETTLEMENTS,

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RUPERTS
LAND





REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE

ON THE SUBJECT OF

RUPERT'S LAND, RED RIVER,

AND THE

NORTH - WEST TERRITORY,

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

THE SENATE, OTTAWA, April 12, 1870.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *McCully*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Botsford*, it was

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed on the subject of *Rupert's Land*, *Red River*, and the *North-West Territory*, with a view of collecting information respecting the condition, climate, soil, population, resources, and natural products of the Country, its trade, institutions, and capabilities, and the means of access thereto, with power to send for persons and papers. And that such Committee be composed of the following persons :— Honorable the Postmaster General, Honorable Mr. *Dickson*, Honorable Mr. *Botsford*, Honorable Mr. *Letellier de St. Just*, Honorable Mr. *Locke*, Honorable Mr. *Burnham*, Honorable Mr. *Dickey*, Honorable Mr. *Sanborn*, Honorable Mr. *McClellan* (of *New Brunswick*), Honorable Mr. *Benson*, Honorable Mr. *Dumouchel*, Honorable Mr. *Olivier*, Honorable Mr. *Miller*, Honorable Mr. *Reesor*, Honorable Mr. *Christie*, and the Mover ; three to be a quorum.

(Attest,)

J. F. TAYLOR.

Clerk of the Senate.

REPORT.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
SENATE, 25th April, 1870.

1st. The Select Committee appointed on the subject of *Rupert's Land*, *Red River*, and the *North-West Territory*, having considered the matters to them referred, agree to the following Report :—

The presence at *Ottawa*, during the existing Session of Parliament of a number of persons recently from *Red River*, all more or less personally familiar with the *North-West Territory* and its resources, having suggested the idea that it would afford a favourable opportunity for obtaining reliable information on the subjects set forth in the foregoing Resolution, the Select Committee appointed for that purpose have had before them a number of witnesses, and have collected much valuable information, which will be found appended to this Report.

2nd. The vast extent of country capable of cultivation, the favorable accounts uniformly given of its agricultural qualities, and the salubrity of the climate leave no room for doubt on the minds of the Committee that the region, North of the United States Boundary, West of the Watershed of Lake Superior, and extending North of the Northern banks of the Saskatchewan River, is a good wheat and vegetable-producing territory.

3rd. The principal drawbacks would seem to be distance from navigation and railway communication, absence of markets for agricultural products, occasional visits from grasshoppers, and the cold of winter. But the testimony of all the witnesses examined upon this latter point tends to establish the fact, that although the thermometer indicates a much lower degree of temperature at *Red River*, in winter months, than in *Ontario*, yet the cold in its effects upon individuals, produces scarcely, if at all, more inconvenience in the former than in the latter country.

4th. The Committee are satisfied that if measures are taken at an early date to afford facilities for access through British Territory to the *Red River*, it will be found to be not only a very desirable home for immigrants, but will materially enhance the prosperity and promote the best interests of this Dominion.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. McCULLY,

Chairman.

* MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE
OF THE SENATE ON THE SUBJECT OF RUPERT'S LAND, RED
RIVER, AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

THURSDAY, 14TH APRIL, 1870.

PRESENT.

The Honorable Mr. McCully, *Chairman.*

"	"	Sanborn.
"	"	Locke.
"	"	Miller.
"	"	Dumouchel.
"	"	Olivier.
"	"	Burnham.
"	"	Dickson.
"	"	McClellan.
"	"	Botsford.
"	"	Christie.

John James Setter examined:—

Q. What is your name, occupation, and place of residence? A. John James Setter; I am a farmer, but latterly have been teaching school; I reside at Portage La Prairie.

Q. Where were you born? A. At Red River.

Q. Have you resided there ever since? A. The greater part of the time; but during the years 1856-7-8 I lived in the State of Minnesota.

Q. You have read the resolution of the Senate under which this Committee was formed, and are aware of the object we have in view? A. Yes.

Q. Over what extent of the Red River country does your knowledge extend? A. I have not travelled over a large part of it. I have not been far from the extremities of the settlement.

Q. Give us the furthest distance from Fort Garry to the North that you have been?
A. I have not been further than the Indian settlement; I have not been to Lake Winnipeg.

Q. How far to the West on the Assiniboine have you been? A. About 110 miles.

Q. How far have you been East? A. I have not been East.

Q. How far South? A. I have been to Minnesota. I passed through the country, I may mention, between the Assiniboine and the boundary line, West of Red River; some seventy or eighty miles.

Q. Describe the general appearance of that section with which you are familiar, whether wooded, prairie, or otherwise? A. It is pretty equally divided between wooded and prairie land.

Q. Do the woods run in parallel lines? A. No promiscuously.

Q. Are the woods near the banks of the streams? A. Invariably.

Q. What is the character of the woods? A. Oak, ash, elm, poplar, what we call large timber, over a foot-and-a-half in diameter.

Q. Is the timber long? A. Not generally.

Q. Is there pine? A. We have a certain kind of pine but not the white pine.

Q. Is there any red cedar? A. No, but there is white cedar.

Q. Are the streams swift or sluggish? A. Indifferently.

Q. What is the character of the bottom? A. There is not much rocky or stony bottom, but it is generally muddy.

Q. Are they difficult to cross? A. Not generally.

Q. Are the banks precipitous? A. They are in some places almost perpendicular and elsewhere sloping.

Q. Does the water cut through in deep channels? A. The bottoms are soft.

Q. Is the sub-soil clay? A. It differs on the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

Q. How deep is the alluvial deposit generally? A. It varies. On the Red River it is about a foot, whilst up on the Assiniboine and in the neighbourhood of the Portage about three feet and in some instances six.

Q. What is below the alluvial deposit? A. White mud in the Portage district, and clay in the Red River section.

Q. What is the color of the clay on the Red River? A. Lightish.

Q. In travelling over the prairie, have you come upon indications of what are called craw-fish? A. I don't know what they are.

Q. Are gophir mounds very common in the country? A. Up on the Assiniboine.

Q. Are the belts of timber wide? A. Yes, on the south side of the Assiniboine.

Q. What is the width of the Assiniboine where it joins the Red River? A. From 150 to 200 yards.

Q. What is the depth of the water of Red River? A. I don't know; it rises and falls.

Q. Is it navigable from Winnipeg, and to what extent? A. Up to Fort Abercrombie for vessels drawing four feet. There are some little rapids and that is all.

Q. What is the average of the belts of timber? A. From three to four miles; but I cannot say from my own knowledge.

Q. How wide are the prairies? A. On the north side of the Assiniboine and in some places elsewhere, 12 or 14 miles.

Q. Are there running streams through them? A. No.

Q. Are there not small branches of the rivers running through them? A. Yes, but they dry up in the summer time.

Q. What is the extent of your farm? A. About 25 acres, all under cultivation.

Q. What is the character of the soil? A. Alluvial.

Q. Had it timber on it originally? A. It was prairie.

Q. Was it virgin soil when you broke it up? A. Yes.

Q. What is the colour of the soil? A. Light.

Q. What is the colour of the prairie on the Assiniboine generally? A. Below Fort

Garry it is black. Different in the various localities, some places light sandy soil and others pure vegetable mould.

Q. What is the character of the wild grass? A. Ordinary prairie grass.

Q. Does it grow tall? A. In the bottoms so tall that you can tie it over a horse's back in riding through it; the ordinary grass is short.

Q. Do you raise wheat? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average weight a bushel? A. I may say 64 lbs.; I have seen it weigh 68.

Q. Are you speaking of spring or fall wheat? A. Of spring wheat, the fall wheat has been always a failure.

Q. What is the cause of that? A. It has not been satisfactorily explained. Canadian farmers have come into the country and thought they could raise fall wheat, but they have not succeeded. I imagine the difficulty arises from the wind which sweeps over the prairie after the fall-ploughing, and carries away not merely the light snow but the soil from the roots of the wheat.

Q. What crops are generally sown by the farmers? A. Wheat, barley, oats, peas, potatoes, turnips, carrots.

Q. Can you raise Indian corn? A. A variety of corn found among the Indians, a small ear some eight or ten inches long, which we may raise for green corn.

Q. What is the difficulty in raising Indian corn? A. There is no difficulty, we don't care about it.

Q. Are the seasons long enough to ripen it? A. Yes.

Q. When do you put your crops in? A. Generally from the 20th April until the 15th May.

Q. When is harvest time? A. In August as a rule.

Q. When do you put in wheat? A. In the middle of April, sometimes a little later or earlier.

Q. Is that spring or fall ploughing? A. Spring ploughing.

Q. What kind of Spring wheat do you use? A. Formerly the only seed was a mixture of all kinds;—we have now distinct varieties; Golden Drop, some Club wheats and Glasgow Fife.

Q. Have you ever had the potatoe disease? A. No.

Q. Is there weevil in the wheat? A. No, though there is an insect which sometimes attacks a few heads.

Q. You are now speaking of that portion of the country with which you are yourself familiar? A. Yes, of the neighborhood of Portage la Prairie.

Q. Are there any farms which have been made of wooded lands? A. I don't think there are many such farms.

Q. Is the soil in the woods different from that of the prairie? A. It is different.

Q. Describe the soil? A. It appears to have a sort of clay bottom in the wood and to be richer than that in the prairie.

Q. When you speak of fall wheat having failed, you refer to what has been sown on the prairie land? A. Yes. It is the opinion of Canadians that if farms were opened on the timber land, the fall wheat would succeed. Last year I saw some in a sheltered place, and it came on so beautifully that in the early part of July it was out in ear; but unfortunately the cattle got in and destroyed it.

Q. At what distance are the streams from the woods? A. The woods grow up directly on the streams.

Q. Is there more or less under-branch? A. Yes.

Q. Are the streams all wooded? A. Yes; sometimes the timber will be on only one side.

Q. Can water be found easily on the Assiniboine? A. Yes, at 8 or 10 feet.

Q. How deep have wells to be dug on the Red River? A. They do not use wells there as a rule. Some have dug for fifty feet, others have water in their cellars.

Q. Is it hard or soft water? A. Generally hard.

Q. Have you any limestone? A. Abundance in the lower part of the Red River; Also in some places near the Assiniboine, though not on the river.

Q. What do you build your chimneys of? A. We make a sort of brick, or adobe, out of white mud.

Q. Have you any bluffs or hills in that country? A. Yes, on the south side of the Assiniboine (which is a beautiful country), as well as west of Red River.

Q. Do you find stone in the bluffs? A. Some boulders. No stratified rocks at all.

Q. Are there hard stones in the country? A. Granite.

Q. Are the bluffs precipitous and wooded? A. They have a gradual slope, and are partly wooded by beautiful groves which look as if they had been laid out.

Q. There is no fuel on the prairie? A. No. I may state that on one side of the line there is plenty of timber for fuel and building houses for some time to come.

Q. How far have you to bring fuel to the settlements on the prairies of which you are speaking? A. Five or six miles.

Q. Has coal been discovered? A. Indians have told me that they have found coal about 40 miles from Portage la Prairie, cropping out in the river banks.

Q. Have you frost in September? A. Yes, but none before.

Q. Is it sufficient to blanch the prairie grass? A. Sometimes, not always.

Q. Does the grass remain green at the bottoms during the winter? A. There is a kind of grass that remains so. The cattle get at it early in spring.

Q. Are the cattle generally housed during the winter? A. The horned cattle are kept in. The horses may run out all winter. We have to feed the cattle. One year I bought a new place, and being short of stabling, I left out some, and these were actually the fattest in the spring. They were only sheltered from the winds.

Q. What is the usual depth of the snow during the winter? A. We don't generally have more than a foot and a half.

Q. Are there many drifts? A. The snow drifts along the edge of the prairies sometimes to a great height.

Q. Have you any sleety storms? A. No; the weather is dry?

Q. What is the temperature? A. At times 43° or 41° below zero, but very rarely.

Q. What are the prevalent winds? A. All but the east; west especially, I think.

Q. Are the winds high? A. We have a pretty good share of wind. We have sometimes very severe storms—always one especially so.

Q. What stock do you keep on your farm? A. I keep 20 head of cattle or thereabouts—no sheep.

Q. Do you wish us to understand that horses could be left out for the average of seasons? A. Yes. I have some neighbors who have some 30 or 40 running at large for the last 10 years.

Q. What do they eat, and have they to go far to get their feed? A. Prairie grass. They go sometimes four or five miles.

Q. What is the average of the temperature in winter? A. I cannot say positively, for I have not had a thermometer, but I think the average is about 20° below zero. I only imagine that it goes over 40° at times. When I was in Minnesota it was 41° below zero.

Q. Can you then move about with comfort? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any thaws during the winter? A. No.

Q. When does snow generally commence to fall? A. About the middle or latter part of November. We have sometimes a fall at the beginning of the month, but it never lies. When winter commences, it is steady.

Q. When does the spring generally commence? A. About the first of April, or latter end of March.

Q. Is the prairie ever flooded in your neighbourhood? A. Not that I am aware of. The Assiniboine does not overflow its banks as a rule.

Q. Have you freshets during the month of May or June? A. No. The Assiniboine sometimes rises a few feet, but not sufficient to overflow.

Q. Are thunder storms frequent? A. Yes; but not of much violence.

Q. Have you the thermometer ever down to zero in the month of May? A. No.

Q. Are your roads sufficient for carriages? A. Yes; all the smaller streams are bridged. From my place down to Fort Garry there is a good road.

Q. What is the average height of the grass on the prairie? A. It is not a kind of grass that grows tall, it is not more than a foot.

Q. Can you use a mowing machine without difficulty? A. Yes, we have a number of them.

Q. How many tons to the acre do you cut? A. We do not speak about "tons" or "acres," we speak of having cut so many loads. We cut our hay on the commons, and enclose our own land.

Q. Are the prairies subject to fire? A. They are being constantly burned.

Q. Is it not contrary to law to set fire to the prairies? A. Yes, in the settlement.

Q. Is the farming confined to one class of persons? A. There are very few French farmers—the French generally pursue hunting. The principal farmers are English and Scotch.

Q. Have you buffalo in the immediate neighborhood of the Assiniboine? A. Not now. We had, some 10 or 15 years ago.

Q. Where do you get them now? A. Not inside of 300 miles now. They are continually shifting.

Q. Are the cattle exposed to particular insects at some seasons? A. No; though there are to annoy them what we call the "bull dog," a sort of black fly.

Q. Are the cattle liable to be destroyed by wild beasts? A. No.

Q. Are there any prairie dogs? A. Very few.

Q. Are there any rabbits or hares? A. Some rabbits.

Q. What birds have you? A. Ducks, geese, cranes, swans, snipe, a small partridge, prairie chickens and pigeons.

Q. Is the heat great in midsummer? A. It is sometimes as high as 90°.

Q. When does the warm weather commence? A. About the middle of May. The warmest weather is in the month of July; the most oppressive heat comes on us in August.

Q. How are the nights in summer? A. Generally cool.

Q. When does your wheat harvest begin? A. Usually in the early part of August; sometimes not till September.

Q. Do oats yield well? A. Yes, 38 lbs. to the bushel.

Q. Do potatoes, turnips, and carrots turn out well? A. Yes, the carrots are particularly large.

Q. Do you feed your cattle with roots? A. No.

Q. Are the potatoes a good crop? A. A sure crop and always excellent. 'Twas only this morning I said that I had not eaten a good potato since I came to Canada.

Q. Tell us what you know about the grass-hoppers? A. I have heard that in the early days of the Settlement they came in and cleared off the crops. Then they never made their appearance until 1857, when I was in Minnesota. They did not hurt the crops at that time, but during the following year they committed great havoc at the Portage. Their next appearance was in 1864. Since that they have been about; they cleared off a great deal of wheat in the fall, and in the course of the next spring they took off the crops. I don't remember the exact date.

Q. Do they come from a distance? A. Yes, in the first instance, this is the third time within 14 years that they came and deposited their eggs.

Q. What is the length of the grass-hopper? A. It flies and is about an inch and a half long; generally of a grayish green color. It is not the domestic grass-hopper that skips.

Q. Do the eggs come to maturity? A. As soon as the warm weather comes; they don't remain longer than they can fly away. During that interval they eat every thing green they can find.

Q. Do they eat the prairie grass? A. No, not if they can get at the crops.

Q. Have you got a species of grub like the army worm? A. None.

Q. Have you the Canadian thistle? A. We have.

Q. Have you the midge? A. Only a small portion of the wheat is injured by the Hessian fly.

Q. Have you a small beetle that destroys the potato vine? A. There is a kind of beetle that sometimes destroys the leaves of the vine, but it does not injure the potatoes.

Q. Do you raise fruit? A. No.

Q. What wild fruit have you got? A. Wild plums, strawberries, raspberries, choke cherries, cranberries, gooseberries, wild peas, blue berries, sour grapes, currants, and some other varieties.

Q. Is the wheat ever effected by rust? A. Very rarely.

Q. Do you make lumber in the settlement? A. Very little. There is one saw-mill on Lake Winnipeg, and there are saws attached to several other mills.

Q. How is the lumber cut? A. Generally by hand, with the pit-saw.

Q. What is the cost per M.? A. We buy it by the 10-ft. board. 100 boards, eight inches wide, cost £2 10s. sterling,

Q. Have you elm? A. Yes, but we make no use of it.

Q. How are the houses generally constructed? A. They are generally a kind of cheaply constructed frame houses. Some are made of square logs. They are all roofed with thatch.

Q. How do you manage about your fencing? A. We get it from the poplar.

Q. What fish have you? A. White fish, sturgeon of a large size—some weighing 100 and 200 lbs.—cat-fish, perch, pike, and gold-eyes; the latter something like the white fish, with a streak of gold around the eyes. These are all eatable fish; the pike being the most indifferent.

Q. Have you serpents? A. We have no adders—only what we call garter snakes.

Q. Is mining carried on? A. No, though minerals can be found, I believe.

Q. What is the population of Portage La Prairie? A. About 300.

Q. Of what class are they? A. Natives, some Canadians, but no French.

Q. How many places of worship have you? A. Three Episcopal churches; the Presbyterians hold their services in a private house at present.

Q. You say you have been teaching school; on what system is the school supported, and what branches do you teach? A. I have been teaching school at the Portage. We get the largest amount of assistance from the Church Missionary Society; the balance is made up by the people. I teach the ordinary branches.

Q. How many pupils have you? A. I think the average is about 40. At one time I had 76, but the grass-hopper famine broke up the school.

Q. Have you Sunday Schools? A. Yes, in connection with the churches.

Q. Do you know anything about the system of education among the French? A. They have no schools that I am aware of, except those taught by the Sisters and the College of St. Boniface.

Q. The settlement where you reside is Protestant? A. Entirely so.

Q. Is there a higher school belonging to the Protestants? A. Yes: Bishop M'Crea's, at St. John's, where they teach classics, mathematics, theology. There are several Divinity students there. There are no Protestants at St. Boniface. The Protestants and Catholics do not mix as a rule.

Q. What is the number at St. Boniface? A. I cannot tell. There is a splendid stone cathedral there belonging to the Catholics.

Q. How are you governed at the Portage? A. Some fifteen years ago, a number of persons went there, in the face of strenuous opposition from the Hudson's Bay Company. However they persisted in their purpose, and established certain municipal arrangements. We elect a Chairman every year, and have a few simple ordinances to settle our own little difficulties; and, under the circumstances, we get along very well. We appoint our own magistrates.

Q. Do they exercise criminal jurisdiction? A. No; if there is a matter of debt, it is collected before the magistrates.

Q. Suppose a man steals? A. We do not have many complaints of that sort.

Q. Could you try a case of larceny before Judge Black or Ross? A. No, they could not try it; they hold quarterly courts at Fort Garry only.

Q. Could they send an officer to your settlement to execute any process? A. No; the Fort Garry jurisdiction does not extend to us.

Q. Do you speak of criminal jurisdiction, suppose a murder was committed in your settlement? A. Oh, then the H. B. Co., would be obliged to act, Judge Black and Governor McTavish came up two years ago and committed a man in our settlement. The prisoner was subsequently taken to Fort Garry and acquitted, but they did not come before they were forced into action.

Q. Where are your agricultural implements procured from? A. From the United States generally.

Q. Do you cultivate hay? A. Very little, for the wild grass is so plentiful.

Q. Is it your general impression then that the country is adapted for general settlement? A. Yes, it is well adapted for settlement.

Q. How does Minnesota, so far as you have seen it, compare with Red River? A. The comparison is in favor of the Red River country. It is the best country I have ever seen.

Q. Is there anything to detract from its agricultural advantages? A. Only that it is out so far from the sea board.

Q. How do you possess yourselves of the lands? A. A man comes and stakes off a piece of land, but there are certain regulations of our own about claims.

Q. Are there unenclosed claims? A. It is usual to put up stakes, but if the claim is not improved within six months it is forfeited, of course we only deal with our own section.

Q. How does a man dispose of a piece of land? A. He gives some sort of deed, we do not pretend to have any right to the soil, and we only sell our improvements.

Q. How is your settlement laid out? A. Our lots run one tier back, a second tier has been taken up this year.

Q. Were any surveys made last year in the settlement? A. They ran a meridian to Pembina and a parallel across the Assiniboine.

Q. Nothing more than that? A. I think not.

Q. Were those in the neighborhood of the French or English settlements? A. They ran across the French lots as well as some of the English settlements.

Q. Did they go into the details of that survey? A. I don't know.

Q. Can cattle be bought in the country? A. They are dear and scarce now, since the grass-hopper pest.

Q. What can horses be bought for? A. About £20 or £25 Sterling.

Q. Cows? A. £6 or £7 Sterling.

Q. Steers? A. £6 to £9 Sterling.

Q. What money do you pay in? A. Sterling.

Q. What description of money have you? A. We have had a little gold and silver, but chiefly the notes of the Hudson's Bay Company, which are redeemable there and are of the denomination of 5 shillings and £1. However the money all disappeared last winter.

Q. What does an American half eagle go for? A. Five dollars or £1 Sterling.

Q. Are there breweries or stills? A. We distil whiskey and brew beer. This was prohibited one time by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Q. Are you much troubled by the Indians? A. No.

Q. Can you trade in fur? A. Yes.

Q. What tribes have you in your locality? A. A tribe of the Chippewas, the Santees — the Crees come down at times in large numbers, and are friendly disposed. We have between 200 and 300 Sioux, and they are of great use to us. They are "hewers of wood and drawers of water," for they are very industrious.

Q. Is there any intermarriage now between the pure Indian and the whites? A. Never now.

Q. Have the women large families? A. Frequently fourteen children.

Joseph Monkman examined:—

Q. What is your name, place of residence, and occupation? A. My name is Joseph Monkman; I live in St. Peter's Parish, in the Indian settlement; I am a farmer.

Q. Were you born in the Red River country? A. Between Lake Winnipeg and the sea coast, towards Hudson's Bay.

Q. What is your age? A. I am in my 59th year.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Where were you brought up? A. Mostly in the Red River settlement. I came there when I was quite young.

Q. Do you speak any language but the English? A. The Chippewa and the Cree; they are different languages.

Q. Were your parents natives of the country? A. My father was an Englishman, and my mother a native of the Cree tribe.

Q. How far have you been to the North? A. I have been as far as Norway House, at the North extremity of Lake Winnipeg.

Q. Tell us where else you have been. A. I have been up the Saskatchewan River as far as Moose Lakes. I have been as far as the Carleton House on the North branch of the Saskatchewan. I have visited the Touchwood Hills, and been along the *Qu' Appelle* River. I have never been south of Fort Ellice. Easterly I have been as far as the Grand Portage, on Lake Superior.

Q. Do you know the neighbourhood of Rainy River and Lake. A. Yes.

Q. The Lake of the Woods? A. Yes.

Q. Have you been to Fond du Lac? A. No, I never came past Fort Frances southward until this trip.

Q. Have you ever followed hunting or trapping? A. Very little.

Q. Were you in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company? A. Sometimes.

Q. Were you with Mr. Dawson? A. Yes, in 1858. I went through Lake Winnipegosis to Cedar Lake. Returning I came up Swan River, overland to Fort Pelly, and then through the country where Mr. Snow has been working. We were then in search of a road.

Q. What is the state of the road between Fort Garry and the Lake of the Woods? A. It is a level country with slight ridges on it. A very fair country on the whole, with the exception of some swamps.

Q. What is the distance between Fort Garry and the Lake of the Woods? A. About 90 miles.

Q. Is it easy to have a Railway there? A. Yes, about fifteen miles of the country are swampy but there is a ridge through it for a long distance of a fine character, wooded with spruce, fir, tamarac, and poplar of the ordinary size.

Q. Have you ever gone over the country with horses? A. In the fall with Mr. Dawson.

Q. Did you cut the bridle path through there? A. Yes.

Q. Had you any serious difficulty in getting through? A. No. I started on the second September from my house, came to Fort Garry, and then struck out to the Lake of the Woods, and then dug a ditch to drain a swamp, and got back during the same month. I took a cart for 40 miles, but I could not afford the time to clear the road or I might have taken it a great deal further.

Q. Did you meet with large hills or rivers? A. No; the White Mud River was not a foot deep then; it runs into Winnipeg River.

Q. You are of opinion then there are no obstacles between the Lake of the Woods and Fort Garry? A. Yes.

Q. Has there been a large amount of money laid out in that country? A. I believe Mr. Snow laid out a good deal.

Q. Is any part of that country fit for settlement? A. Some portion. It is a sandy soil as a rule. It a good soil for 30 miles from Fort Garry; there is a small settlement there mostly French.

Q. Do you know anything of the country, as far as Fort William? A. I was at the Lake of the Thousand Lakes by two different routes.

Q. Did you meet with many Indians? A. Yes, there are some. Along the Winnipeg River there are 7 posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, and one of a private trader.

Q. How did you come with Dr. Schultze? A. We came to Whitefish Lake and went through the country to Fort Frances. We came on snow shoes, and with dogs. We got on American territory, then, and came down to Vermillion Lake and through that to Duluth. We left Fort Alexander on the 27th February, and were 7½ days performing the journey of 500 miles. Mr. McVicker came along with us. I brought six men with me as far as Fort Frances, where we got other guides and dogs. But when we got to Vermillion, it was reported there was small pox at the place, and so the men turned round and left us.

Q. You heard Mr. Setter's observation concerning the capabilities of the country; are they correct? A. His views agree with mine, as respects the soil, and its capability.

Q. Do you differ in any particulars from Mr. Setter? A. I do not think so.

Q. Has he over-rated the country? A. No. The part he described, has a sandy soil; I know the neighbourhood: but lower down towards the Red River valley it is a much richer soil of black mould.

Q. What is the population of St. Peter's Parish? A. It is a line of houses nearly all on one side of the river. There are between 50 and a hundred houses. The parishes are not far apart—the churches being made to accommodate just the population of a parish.

Q. What is the occupation of the people? A. They farm, fish, work generally, they are mostly all natives, there are a few strangers who have married native girls, during the winter they work cutting timber.

Q. Is there a mill there? A. There was, but it is worn out, it was to grind grain. The people saw by hand.

Q. Is there much pine there? A. Yes, the largest size being three feet diameter, but the fire has destroyed great quantities of it.

Q. Can you tell the depth of the Red River? A. Below Lower Fort Garry it is from 20 to 30 feet deep. Where I live it is from 30 to 35, it is nearly 200 yards wide.

Q. How far do they navigate above Fort Garry? A. As far as Fort Abercrombie, which is about 290 miles into the American Territory, from St. Peter's Parish.

Q. What is the depth of water in the shallow parts between Lake Winnipeg and Fort Garry? A. Three feet in some parts.

Q. Do you farm yourself? Yes, last year I sowed 50 bushels of wheat, 15 bushels barley, 20 potatoes. I had a first-rate crop of wheat, so heavy that it could not support itself and laid down so that it did not ripe.

Q. When do you begin to farm? A. Not until April, I sowed wheat on the 22nd.

Q. What was the difficulty about the wheat? A. Last year was rather a moist season—when we should have had our usual harvest, it was very damp and the crops would not ripen but laid down. At that time the wheat was about 5 feet high, I should have had 1,600 bushels.

Q. What is the usual yield? A. I have known farmers who have threshed their wheat and got 35 bushels to one, during the last year, and that was not a good season for ripening.

Q. Do you sow thick or thin? A. Not very thin.

Q. Is the wheat of a good quality? A. Yes. I have seen one grain make 55 heads. About 65 or 66 lbs. is the average weight.

Q. What is the barley crop like? A. It exceeds the wheat.

Q. Do you generally find difficulty in ripening wheat? A. No. I never lost a crop until last year in that part of the country.

Q. Do you manure the land? A. I have seen a crop come off the same land for 25 years.

Q. What was the last like? A. Much about the same.

Q. When is the usual time for reaping? A. Generally in the latter part of July or August. Those who sow in the last part of April will reap in the last week of July or in the first part of August; but the latter month is the regular time.

Q. Have you had late frosts to injure grain? A. It is an uncommon occurrence; sometimes the frost touches the flowers, but it does injure the crops in general. I have had none injured where I live.

Q. Do potatoes grow well? A. We have had potatoes of 2 lbs. each. They are invariably fine.

Q. What cattle do you keep? A. About 30 or 40. I have no sheep at my place, but I have some elsewhere kept by another man.

Q. Do you weave cloth? A. I have woven thousands of yards myself.

Q. How do Red River potatoes compare with those in Canada? A. I have not seen any good ones here.

Q. Do you encourage the growth of hemp? A. My father was the first who brought a weaver into the country.

Q. What height does the hemp reach? A. Taller than myself. When we sowed it for use we put it in thickly so that it would not grow too tall.

Q. Do you raise corn? A. I have known corn grow to maturity at Red River and not injured by the frost.

Q. Have you seen buckwheat grow? A. Yes, I know it can grow well.

Q. Do you house your cattle? A. Yes.

Q. When do you have prairie grass sufficient to maintain them? A. As soon as the snow goes off—about the 15th April, or earlier.

Q. Do you keep your horses in? A. Yes, but they can winter out.

What is the usual depth of the snow? It is considered very deep at three feet.

Q. Do you raise salt? A. It is made west in our territory.

Q. What is the price a bushel? It is as high as 16s. sterling sometimes.

Q. Do you make sugar? A. Yes, from the maple.

Q. Do you get tea, and at what price? A. Common Congou, Souchong,—good black tea of various kinds, from 2s. 8d. to 3s. per lb.

Q. Give us the price of the articles in ordinary use? A. Coffee, 1 shilling per lb., Moleskin trowsers, 15 shillings; Corduroys, 18 shillings; Blankets, of different sizes, 21 to 23 shillings for one; shoes from 15 shillings.

Q. How do you get your supplies? A. Some things by the way of the States, and others from England by the Hudson's Bay Company's ships.

Q. How do the Hudson's Bay Company bring their heavy goods? A. The Company has a ship that lands goods every year at York Factory, some of which are brought up into Red River Settlement.

Q. Do they sell to traders? A. It is not customary.

Q. How do you regulate your affairs? A. We have been under the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Q. Do you elect your Magistrates? A. The Company appoint them.

Q. Have you any taxes to pay? A. We do not know in what shape we pay them; there is no direct taxation; the taxes are levied on the goods.

Q. What regulations have you for the sale of intoxicating liquors? A. No one is allowed to sell without a license.

Q. What kinds of liquors are used? A. Beer, rum, whiskey, wine and brandy.

Q. What is the price of half a pint of rum in the taverns? A. I never went into one of them.

Q. Have you a school in your Settlement? A. Yes.

Q. Have you Ministers? A. Two—one a native, and the other an Englishman—both Episcopalians.

Q. Are there any Pagan Indians in your parish? A. Yes; there are some—plenty certainly out of the settlement. The "drum" ceremony is, however, fast dying out.

Q. How do they dispose of the dead? A. They bury them in the ground, but the Plain Indians hang some of them on stakes.

Q. Are these Indians friendly? A. Yes. They profess themselves the subjects of the Queen. They are all for the Government.

Q. To what Indians do you refer? A. I have seen as many as I could on coming here. Wherever I saw traces of their presence, I followed them up and found that the whole of them were for the Government.

Q. What Government do you mean? A. The British and Canadian Government. They are ready to go and meet the troops and assist them. They are against Riel's Government.

Q. What language is spoken among the Indians? A. They speak the Santee in that part of the country. On the north of Lake Winnipeg, the Crees have a different language. I cannot speak for the Sioux. The Swampy and Cree is about the same. So is the Stony and Sioux.

Q. How extensive are the Missionary operations outside the parishes that are settled? A. There are several missionary associations working in the country—Church of England and Roman Catholic.

Q. Are there any English Roman Catholics there? A. A few.

Q. Are there many Americans? A. A good many American merchants about Fort Garry.

Q. Have you been up the Saskatchewan? A. Yes, I have, near Cumberland House.

Q. What is the country like? A. Much wooded, and very little prairie, but a great many lakes. It looks good for cultivation.

Q. Are there farms along that river? A. None.

Q. Is the fur trade nearly exhausted? A. There are in the Saskatchewan country, martens and thousand of muskrats—especially on the north side. Besides these there are mink, otter, fox and beaver.

Q. Does artificial grass grow well in the country? A. Timothy, when tried, grows well and keeps possession of the soil.

Q. Does other grass follow prairie grass? A. I cannot say that there is a change of grass.

Q. For instance, around the houses in settled parts of the country? A. The grass dies out and weeds come in its place.

SATURDAY, 16th April, 1870.

PRESENT:

The Honorable Mr. McCully, *Chairman.*

"	"	Botsford.
"	"	Burnham.
"	"	Christie.
"	"	Dickson.
"	"	Dickey.
"	"	Locke.
"	"	Miller.
"	"	Sanborn.
"	"	Oliver.
"	"	Dumouchel.

The Examination of Joseph Monkman was resumed:

Q. What is the distance from your parish to Fort Garry? A. Thirty miles by the river; twelve miles to Lake Winnipeg; or, 42 miles from Fort Garry to the Lake.

Q. Do you know the country between the fort of Lake Manitobah and the Red River on the East? A. Yes. The distance is about 55 miles. The character of the

country is about the same as that around Red River; but higher, and sandy. There are also some narrow ridges which are gravelly.

Q. What kind of gravel? A. Small, smooth, indicating the action of water.

Q. Are you pretty well acquainted with the Assiniboine? A. I have only been once right through the river.

Q. Has that country been ever heavily flooded? A. In 1826 it was under water for about 13 miles, when the ice broke up. The overflow was west of Red River, and in some places it was five or six feet deep; but one could, as a rule, walk through it.

Q. To what do you attribute that great flood? A. The river was narrow then, and the river could not discharge the quantity of water that came down from the upper end of Red River, where the snow was in great quantities. The river is much wider now, and there is no difficulty in discharging any superfluous water. There was another flood subsequently, but not half as great. It covered the country for five or six miles, but did not reach the ridges. The flood was less from the fact of the water finding a vent through a flat. The water only remained on a week or so.

Q. Had the crops been put in? A. I think some were, but I cannot say positively.

Q. Are the farmers fearful of similar floods? A. No; they put in their crops as if there had never been any floods.

Q. Is the river perceptibly wider? A. Nearly double.

Q. How can you get water on the plains? A. Anywhere you dig, you can get it. The water is rather hard, but not salt. In our neighbourhood, we find water in our cellars, except in some kinds of soil.

Q. Do you know if the soil gets thinner as you go back? A. Take it on the whole it is pretty deep. It is fit for farming. Fifty miles along the shore of Manitobah Lake as good crops have been raised as on the banks of Red River. I was 250 miles north of Red River, once with a minister, establishing a new missionary station, and I never saw finer wheat. It is thinner on the Lake Saskatchewan.

Q. Have you travelled through the country in the vicinity of the Assiniboine? A. Yes.

Q. Are small lakes frequent? A. Yes, once you pass Fort Pelly westward, there are lakes all through the prairies. It is a capital place for cattle. You can travel with a horse and buggy all round these lakes. The water is brackish, and you can see the salt lying along the shores of some of the lakes.

Q. Do you know any part of the country where the frost does not leave in the summer time? A. I suppose in the Rocky Mountains, there the snow is always seen, but not elsewhere, fruit grows a long way to the north of us, such fruit as grows on moss.

Q. Have you ever seen orchards attempted? A. No; I saw a few shoots put out by the Hudson's Bay Company, but rabbits and mice soon ate them up.

Q. Do you consider from your knowledge of the country that the frost is an injury to farming? A. I do not think so at all. In parts of the country that I have travelled through, the Indians have given me berries that they have kept fresh all through the winter. I have been in the Indian Settlement for some 12 years, and the last season was the only one when my crop was not satisfactory, for the reason I stated before.

Q. Have you ever been at Fort William? A. No, but I have been through Rainy River and at the South West corner of the Thousand Lakes, which are about sixty miles from Fort William, and the same distance from Rainy Lake.

Q. What is the size of the Thousand Lakes and Islands? A. I cannot say, they are so full of Islands.

Q. What kind of boat is used by the Hudson's Bay Company? A. Boats of 28 feet keel, with a long rake, 8 feet beam, not very flat on the bottom, built just as the sloops. These are the boats used in bringing up the supplies from York Factory to Fort Garry, and then to Fort Frances on Rainy Lake.

Q. How far is Fort Frances from Fort William? A. More than half way.

Q. You are familiar with the navigation from Fort Garry to Fort Frances? A. Yes.

Q. What can the boats of which you speak carry? A. From 70 to 80 pieces of 100 weight, besides seven or eight men. The boats are pretty heavy, and it takes about 14 men to run them over the portages.

Q. How often have you been to Fort Frances? A. Three times. I was never in a boat on the trip, but I have seen the operation of taking one up. I understand it sufficiently well to describe it.

Q. Now suppose there were 500 immigrants on Lake Superior who wished to get to Fort Garry, how long would it take them to reach there with six months' provisions, in the way of which you are speaking? A. I think they could go from Fort Alexander to Fort Frances in 12 or 15 days, and that is two-thirds of the distance.

Q. Then you think if they had as much despatch in the lower part of the route, you could safely say that the party of which I speak might reach their destination in 25 or 30 days? A. Yes, and even in less. They would land at the N.W. angle of the Lake of the Woods, and go overland by the new road.

Q. Suppose one of these boats, with 20 persons in it, starting from Fort William; when would they get through? A. They would go in 8 or 9 days from the upper end of Rainy Lake to Fort Garry. I was told it would take us 8 days to travel on snow shoes from Fort Frances to Fort William—a distance of 150 miles.

Q. Will you tell us again what is your opinion about the road between Fort Garry and the Lake of the Wood? A. There is no difficulty about going over it.

Q. Could any number of troops go over it with provisions? A. Yes; some 15 or 20 miles of it might be soft without bridging, but I think a road could be made in about a fortnight. Snow and Mair have said it was all good, but I am not quite of their opinion respecting the part to which I refer. From 50 to 100 men would complete it in two weeks at least.

Q. Do you manure you farm? A. Very little, but when I do, with dung.

Q. Do you consider the land in the vicinity of Rainy River good for cultivation? A. Yes, on the banks, but I cannot speak of the back country.

Q. Is it a wooded country? A. Nearly all; I don't think there is any beach, but I have seen birch, poplar, oak, spruce, pine. I have travelled through the whole length of the river, nearly 100 miles; it is a slow-running stream, with one short rapid a little below Fort Frances, which can be safely run. The banks are muddy and sloping. There is a fall at Fort Frances.

Q. Were you ever on the South bank of the Saskatchewan? A. I only crossed it to Fort Pelly. It is a rolling country with lakes all over. The soil is good, I think, for the grass is long.

Q. How does the climate compare with that of Fort Garry? A. I don't know of any difference.

Q. Were you ever down the Saskatchewan to Cumberland House? A. I have been close to it.

Q. How did you get there? A. Through Winnipeg.

Q. Do you know the Pas Mountain? A. Yes, I have been on it; it is high, and can be seen at a considerable distance; it is covered with timber—birch, pine, poplar.

Q. Do you keep sheep? A. Not where I live; it is an Indian settlement, and there are a great many dogs about.

Q. Have you pumpkins and melons? A. I have seen a pumpkin that weighed 23 lbs.; we have melons of all kinds.

Q. Do you know anything about coal being found in the country? A. I have seen some brought to the Settlement and put on the fire, and it burned away. I don't know where it was got.

Q. Do you know anything of the Joseph Monkman whose name I see in a deed of land, made on the 12th March, 1844, between the Hudson Bay Company and one Joseph Monkman, yeoman, of Red River Settlement? A. That was myself. That was a deed given by the Hudson's Bay Company, which I was persuaded to sign by the present Judge Black, then in the employ of the Company. I found that the deed contained some things that I did not like, and at first I refused to sign it. The deed contained conditions that made it incumbent on us to deal with none except the Company, or by their permission. There were also suspicious blanks in the deed, which the Company might have filled up with words to hang poor Joseph Monkman.

Q. Is there any desire on the part of the resident population to see immigration into the country? A. There is a great extent of country in its natural state, and I don't see how there can be any objection to additional farmers coming in.

Q. Is there any prejudice among the Indians against settlement? A. The Indians have been expecting that a treaty will be made with them for the cession of their lands.

Q. Are there head men or chiefs who would be permitted to act for the whole tribe? A. There are.

Q. If no treaty is made, do you apprehend some difficulty might occur? A. Yes, I believe so. The Indians have told me that they believe the Government of Canada would make a treaty with them. They have heard of what has been done in the case of the Indians in the United States and Canada, and expect similar treatment so far as they are concerned.

Q. Do you consider it important that this matter should be attended to? A. Yes.

The Reverend William Fletcher, examined

Q. What is your name, and where were you born? A. William Fletcher; I was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Q. Where do you come from now? A. Portage La Prairie.

Q. How long have you been in the Red River country? A. I went into it on the 10th October, 1868, from Carlisle, Ontario.

Q. How long had you been in Canada previously? A. For twenty odd years.

Q. What is your vocation? A. I am a Minister of the Canada Presbyterian church. I was, for 10 years, settled in the congregation of Carlisle. I am still in connection with the same church.

Q. Do you know the Red River country well? A. I have been over a great deal of the country, from the Portage down the Assiniboine to Fort Garry—from Fort Garry to Stone Fort on Red River.

Q. What is the number of Presbyterians in your District? A. There are about 150 families altogether—70 at Kildonan and Winnipeg; about 30 at Little Britain near the Stone Fort; 20 at Headingly; the rest at the Portage.

Q. Can you give us an estimate of the population in the Districts with which you are acquainted? A. The entire population at the time of the distress—the winter of 1868-9—was about 12,000.

Q. Do you refer now to the population of all denominations? A. Yes, including the half-breeds, and also a number of Indians in the Indian Settlement.

Q. Is the population settled generally? A. From Lake Winnipeg to Fort Garry the people are almost entirely Protestant. From Fort Garry up the Assiniboine there is an English church congregation. There is only one Catholic congregation at Sturgeon Creek—but it is not large.

Q. Are you speaking of a particular side of the river? A. No, I am going on both sides. We then come to a English church, and a small one belonging to the Presbyterians, 14 miles from Fort Garry. It is Protestant; say two miles westward, from that it is entirely French, until we come to Poplar Point, about 40 miles from the Fort; but the Settlement is not close, and but little cultivated; from that westward, on the Assiniboine, it is entirely Protestant. Some 18 miles from Portage La Prairie, north-west of Manitobah, at White Mud River, there is a small mission of the Church of England. The Settlements of the French Catholics run from Fort Garry southward as far as Pembina. There is another Settlement now on the road going on between Fort Garry and Fort William, and those referred to on the Assiniboine.

Q. How many Protestant Churches are there in the Settlements altogether? A. We mix very much as Protestants. There are 11 or 12 of the Church of England; 4 of the Presbyterians, and three other places of meeting in private houses; 5 or 6 of Wesleyan Methodists—I mean places of meeting, for there are no churches. There are two churches in Winnipeg; one Church of England, one Presbyterian. At Poplar Point, Church of England; High Bluff, Church of England; at the Portage, Church

of England; the Methodists have come there, but have not yet built. The little station at Mud River has not a minister regularly established, but the Church of England has a mission there, consisting of only a few families of English half-breeds.

Q. What are the respective proportions of the Catholics and Protestants? A. As nearly as we could find out, at the time of the relief, the Catholics and Protestants were nearly equal; but many of our people did not require any assistance. The Presbyterians especially, chiefly Scotch and Canadians, required more.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the condition of the Roman Catholic Churches? A. I have met with many of the Clergy on the Relief Committee, and can say little on the subject.

Q. What are the churches like? A. Most of the churches have been built at a considerable cost—stone, substantial buildings at St. Boniface.

Q. Where do you get the stone? A. We find abundance of stone on the rapids below Fort Garry.

Q. How is marriage performed? A. The Hudson's Bay Company issued licenses for some time to all the Protestants, but some time ago the Bishop of Rupert's Land got the privilege of issuing them for his own denomination. Up to the present the Presbyterians and Methodists have continued to get them from the Government. We marry by license and by banns as usual elsewhere. Since I have been in the country, I have had a licence addressed to myself by name. The licence is paid for. £1 sterling is the fee, I think, in all cases given to the minister.

Q. Have you Sunday schools in connection with the churches? A. Yes, and some very good ones. The school at Kildonan in the depth of winter, when the snow was deep, had 110 in attendance.

Q. What are the Protestant schools like? A. I found the schools pretty much as they were in Canada 25 years ago.

Q. How are the schools generally supported? A. By the churches.

Q. Do the children attend the schools promiscuously? A. They are at liberty to do so on paying a fee. We have a free school at Kildonan—kept up by subscription, and attended by 80 or 90 scholars. We have 9 this year studying classics.

Q. Is the English language generally spoken in the country? A. Of course among the English, but many of the French speak no English.

Q. Do many of the English speak French? A. A good many of the old settlers.

Q. Is the English the most generally spoken? A. The French are so often on the plains they speak Indian, which is as commonly spoken between them and the French. There is a basis of Cree very common between the two. I refer now to the half-breeds generally.

Q. Do you know if that language is written? A. It is not used in correspondence. There are, however, some books written in Indian, and some are capable of teaching it.

Q. Do you know anything about the state of education among the French? A. There are a few schools which compare very favorably with similar institutions in Canada.

Q. Do you speak French yourself? A. No.

Q. Where are these schools? A. The principal one at St. Boniface, opposite Fort Garry. I cannot speak from my own knowledge of the state of education among the French. I think females can be educated at St. Boniface, at the nunnery.

Q. Do the French and English intermarry much? A. No.

Q. Where's St. Boniface? A. At the junction of the Assiniboine and Red River; there are the church, nunnery, academy, and the residence of Bishop Taché.

Q. What is your opinion of the climate? A. In winter, I should say it would average 30° below zero. The range is more equitable—the changes from day to day, much less than in Canada. Owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, individuals feel the cold less than they do here.

Q. Are you speaking from the glass thermometer? A. I have never drawn up a comparative statement, but I have watched the thermometer from day to day.

Q. What is the lowest you have known it? A. 40° during winter. We have had 37° for several days.

Q. Have you extreme heat in summer? A. The last summer was considered cool. It is never unpleasantly hot.

Q. How would the length of the season for crops compare with that in the vicinity of Toronto? A. On the Assiniboine seeding began last year on the 16th April. From that day it continued until the end of May, without a shower or anything to retard operations. The cattle could scarcely be kept in anytime during April—the wild grass seemed to be refreshed by the winter's snow, and the cattle ate it greedily. This grass grows just outside the fences, and the cattle prefer it to hay.

Q. When did the new grass come up? A. The new grass did not come up as rapidly as I expected. At first, the growth was slow, but during May it was more rapid. It was the middle of May before the cattle got a feed of the new grass.

Q. Had they ploughed before the 16th April? A. No, and even then they were running a very light plough, in danger of breaking it all the time in the frosty ground.

Q. Have you any idea of the depth of the frost? A. From three to four feet in places where there is no snow. They never wait to plough until the frost is out.

Q. Do you put more clothing on during the winter? A. I protect the face more, and that is all that is necessary.

Q. Have you known the thermometer to be below zero in the month of May? A. No.

Q. What is the reputation of the country in an agricultural aspect? A. The old settlers that have been engaged in agriculture for a long while, say that they would have raised immense crops, but the Hudson's Bay Company, in the fall, set a price and told them how many bushels they would take from each individual, and as this quantity was very limited, and there was no market elsewhere, there was no inducement to raise more than they could sell and use.

Q. What do the Company give for a bushel of wheat? A. Usually a good price—from 3s 6d. to 4s. sterling, even when it is abundant.

Q. What is the price of a bushel of potatoes? A. They have sold for 6d. a bushel. Last year they were as high as 5s. to 8s. They are excellent in quality, and give a good return. After the grass was off, the year of the grasshopper pest, potatoes were put in during July, and though they were soft and not matured, yet the crop was abundant.

Q. Has the potatoe disease yet made its appearance? A. No.

Q. How do the vegetables compare with those in Canada? A. Very few are raised. There is a garden of two acres on the Assiniboine where I have seen as excellent vegetables as I ever saw in Canada. On one acre of cabbage, not a head wanting, and each ten inches.

Q. What grain crops do they grow? A. Wheat, oats and barley. The French and others raise a few hills of Indian corn, but it does not come to very much.

Q. Do you hear any complaints of frost during the summer? A. There is an impression, especially in some sections, that the spring frost sometimes injures the crops, and again, that the late fall frost may overtake the late harvest.

Q. Is it your opinion that the soil and climate are adapted to the growth of Indian corn? A. I believe it might not be a safe crop. I think certain varieties of early corn grown in Canada—such as the Early Yellow—might be cultivated with advantage.

Q. What is the usual time for harvesting grain? A. Fully as early as in Canada West. Last year the season was late, but where they had the seed to put in early they had the harvest over before they had it over in London township. The usual time for harvest is August.

Q. Do you know the average yield of wheat? A. I had an estimate made up last year, and my opinion was that of all the cereals, we had not less than 20 returns for every bushel sown in the whole country. The yield per acre is difficult to get, as the people do not pay any regard to that measurement—I would say 30 and 35 bushels to the acre, would not be too large.

Q. Is there any reason to fear that the grass-hoppers will be in the territory this year? A. When I left the farmers were debating as to the advisability of putting in the seed.

Q. Does the insect resemble the Canadian grasshopper? A. It appears to have a little more vigour.

Q. From what quarter do they come? A. Usually from the south. It is generally thought that they are bred in the warm season in the north of Texas. We expect them to be bred this year from the eggs deposited last season. When they first make their appearance, the crops are generally out of danger, and it is in the second year, when the eggs come to maturity, that the farmers suffer.

Q. Do you know anything about the weevil or ridge? A. They are not in the country, I have seen heads of grain, many five inches long, without a single grain wanting. The club wheat I have seen growing is longer than any I have seen in Canada.

Q. Is there much wheat in the country now? A. Yes enough for a year in advance.

Q. Has the Hudson's Bay Company ceased to purchase? A. No person has purchased anything except what may be wanted for immediate use.

Q. Is the wheat kept in straw? A. It is not so generally, but this year it has not all been threshed.

Q. Has much flour been imported into the country for some years? A. Only during the time of the famine.

Q. What is the price of flour? A. It has been as high as £3 during the time of the distress. Now the wheat is selling 4s. the bushel, and yet flour is charged 12s. and 15s. the cwt. The price per barrel may be put down at \$5.

Q. Have you good flour mills? A. Not good mills, there are wind-mills; water power not common. The steam mill now in operation is turning out good flour.

Q. Is there much smut in the grain? A. Yes.

Q. How does your flour compare with the American article? A. Most of us prefer it, especially when it comes from the steam mill.

Q. Is liquor much drank? A. There is a great deal of drinking among all classes. There are Temperance and Teetotal Societies, but still there is much liquor used. We have for instance a Society of 200 persons. Whiskey is made in the settlement, but rum is the favorite drink. The liquor comes chiefly from the States, though a little whiskey is made in the settlement.

Q. Is there a license system? A. There is, and when I first saw the regulations I thought we would be quite safe. A number of persons can object to a neighbour getting a license, and the court dare not grant a license—I mean the council of the Hudson's Bay Company, but the law is never carried out.

Q. Do the Hudson's Bay Company exercise jurisdiction with respect to licensing all over the country? A. They have confined themselves to 50 miles up the Assiniboine past Poplar Point. The Portage has been a separate government to a large extent. For instance, they are not subject to the 4 per cent. duty on goods. They appoint their own Council and Magistrates.

Q. Do the Hudson Bay Company interfere with respect to the traffic on furs? A. It has been virtually free for some years.

Q. Is there much drinking among the Indians? A. Yes, whenever they can get liquor.

Q. How does Red River compare with Canada as a home for emigrants? A. There are some things which cannot be procured, but the country is favorable for farming. An industrious man can get a living at far less cost of labor.

Q. What class engage in hunting? A. The English as well as the French. There is the carrying trade between the settlements and St. Cloud which occupies a large number for some weeks every year. Some 1500 carts are sometimes met with on the way; one man goes to three carts drawn by oxen. The men leave the settlement in the spring after they have put in their little crop, and return in about six weeks' time—making about £6 for each cart. They make a similar trip in the fall, and attend to their crops in a careless sort of way. The French hunt and trade during the entire winter and come in with furs when the summer approaches. They go mostly up the Assiniboine and the Saskatchewan, among the Crees and Blackfeet. They take with

them horses and oxen, — frequently their whole family. They hunt buffalo and gather furs.

Q. How many Protestant clergymen are you acquainted with in the country? A. We have a Bishop and two Archdeacons. There are about ten Church of England Missionaries besides, for that denomination have long been engaged in the chief mission work. There are four Presbyterian and two Wesleyan Methodist clergymen.

Q. Is there any restraint upon religious worship? A. Everybody worships as freely as in Canada.

Q. Are most of the schools under the control of the Church of England? A. Yes.

Q. Does the prairie grass return when the plough has broken up the soil, or does cultivated grass spring up? A. You occasionally come to a place that is ploughed, and the grass is very much the same as grew there before; but there is no timothy or clover.

Q. Is the soil easily drained? A. Yes, it is such that the water will dig a channel through it in a very short time.

Q. What is the extent of the cultivation from the Red River west, and the Assiniboine north? A. Those sides are the most cultivated. In the settlements below Fort Garry we have cultivated about two chains back, for there is a kind of swamp that intervenes, and the other fields are two miles behind.

Q. Does that apply to the north side of the Assiniboine? A. No; there they can farm more closely.

Q. What is the price of a bushel of salt in the country? A. It was sold for 10s. a bushel during the last season. I have known it for 8s. There is abundance of salt in the country if there were appliances to make it. By Lake Manitobah it is quite visible. You can see spots on the prairie, which the cattle lick up greedily.

Q. Is the water, as a rule, good? A. The water by the Red River is not of the best quality, but it is excellent when you go up the Assiniboine towards the Portage country.

Q. Do you know anything about the surveys made last year under the Government of Canada? A. They surveyed for a little on the East of Red River, and the French complained.

Q. What was the nature of the complaint? A. It seemed that the surveyors were going into what was considered a Roman Catholic Reserve. Surveys were also commenced in the English settlements, I believe. I am only speaking of what I was told.

Q. How did you generally travel in the country? A. I only found it necessary once to go on horseback. I could go on wheels anywhere.

Q. Is there any fever and ague in the country? A. No; on the contrary, some persons who have been afflicted with it, on coming into the country, found it eventually leave them. We have consumption, but chiefly among the Indians and half-breeds, who are more exposed than others, and more poorly provided for.

Q. Is vaccination common? A. It is in the settlements.

Q. Do the Protestants intermarry with the Indians? A. They do not in the settlements. Old servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, at remote posts, have done so in former times.

Q. Have you any English half-breeds? A. By no means as many as the French.

Q. Do you know anything about St. Joseph? A. That is a small settlement in American territory, 15 miles from Pembina; the people belong to, and fraternise with the half-breeds of Red River, and many of them have been mixed up with the recent troubles.

Q. Is the road between Pembina and Fort Garry settled? A. For 25 miles there is scarcely a house, but then it becomes more thickly settled according as you approach Fort Garry.

Q. Is there a road on the east side? A. You can go on either side. During summer, however, the travel is entirely on the west side. There are scarcely any bridges on the way.

Q. I suppose you have had frequent opportunities to make yourself acquainted with the people? A. When the question of the transfer first came up, there was not much

difference of sentiment. I don't think the French Canadians differed much from the other people until the disturbances occurred. The British speaking population have taken no part or interest in the disturbances.

Q. Did you leave the country on account of the disturbances? A. I have travelled all over the country unmolested, for the French half-breeds knew me on account of my having been thrown in their way during the time of the distress. When I got to Fort Garry, and was on my way to Pembina, I thought it was advisable to get a pass. I left on the 13th March, ten days after the death of Scott.

MONDAY, 18th April, 1870.

PRESENT:

The Honorable Mr. McCully, *Chairman.*

"	"	Christie,
"	"	Dickson,
"	"	Miller,
"	"	Olivier,
"	"	Dumouchel,
"	"	McClelan,
"	"	Dickey,
"	"	Botsford.

Donald Codd, examined,

Q. What is your name and occupation? A. My name is Donald Codd; I am a draughtsman.

Q. Where do you reside, and where were you born? A. At Ottawa at present; I was born in England.

Q. When did you go to Red River? A. In June last.

Q. Why did you go there? A. With the intention of taking any employment I could procure. I was employed by Mr. Snow and afterwards by Colonel Dennis.

Q. When did you return? A. In January last.

Q. How long were you with Mr. Snow and in that capacity? A. Until October 9th I was pretty much everything; clerk for sometime.

Q. Are you familiar with the road that he was building? A. Yes, as far as Oak Point, the Government depot, 32 miles from Fort Garry. I have not been beyond that.

Q. What is the character of the country between Oak Point and Fort Garry? A. It is all prairie and excellent land. There are clumps of trees—small oak and poplar chiefly—at intervals. The wooded land commences, and the prairie ends at Oak Point.

Q. How much of the road did you understand that they had completed? A. As far as White Mouth River—30 miles at least.

Q. What did you do on Colonel Dennis' survey? A. I was draughting; I was not on the field at any time with him.

Q. How far West were you on the Assiniboine? A. Only 12 miles, and then in the winter.

Q. What kind of accommodation did you find in the settlement? A. I stayed at a small hotel, the accommodation was not very good, the charges were 20 shillings Sterling, or \$5 a week. There are not more than 50 or 60 houses in Winnipeg. The population is mostly native; there are a few Americans and Canadians.

Q. How did you return? A. By a horse and sleigh.

Q. Is it expensive to hire such? A. We paid a man £16 to bring us 440 miles, and he took 15 days. We had to find provisions for ourselves and him, but he found feed for the horses. We had two horses and two small trains.

Q. Were you in any of these troubles? A. I was acting generally for Colonel Dennis, but I did not go about carrying despatches.

Q. What was the climate like? A. It seemed to me to be about the same climate we have in Ottawa. During the summer I was at Oak Point, I kept a record by a Fahren-

heit thermometer, which, unfortunately, has been lost with my other effects. I remember, however, finding it 92° and 93° at the Point in the shade, in the month of August, and that was considered a cool summer. The nights were cool—never sultry. I have only had experience of winter as far as January when I left. I examined a register kept by Mr. Stewart, for 9 years, and found that the range of the cold was much the same as at Ottawa. There was, however, an absence of decided thaws.

Q. What do they generally burn for fuel? A. Generally poplar, as big as your arm. Generally they cut the dead trees, killed by the fire on the prairies. The hotel keeper, I think, told me that he paid 3 shillings for a small cart load.

Q. What arms have they in use in the settlement? A. Many of the buffalo hunters are armed with Henry Rifles, but the greater number of the population use the old flint musket, and carry powder horns. Their flint locks are brought out by the Hudson's Bay Company and some of them were provided with bayonets. There was a number of "Old Bess" guns left in charge of the Company when the Canadian Rifles left.

Q. Were you at Stone Fort? A. Yes, I was there with Colonel Dennis. Our party was armed, but there was a deficiency of arms. The greatest number, all told, was about 120, and it was found difficult to supply all with weapons.

James Lynch, examined:

Q. What is your name, and where do you reside at present? A. James Lynch; I am living at Red River. I was born at Niagara, and went to Red River last June, with the intention of settling.

Q. Are you a professional man? A. I am a Doctor, but I went to Red River with the intention of farming. My brother went with me, but he came back early last autumn before the troubles commenced.

Q. What did you do whilst in the territory? A. I went about the country looking for a suitable place to settle. I went in by the way of Pembina, visited Fort Garry, next Point du Chêne, and finally White-Mud River on Lake Manitobah, about 75 miles from Fort Garry. There is a little settlement up the White-Mud River, about 7 or 8 miles from the mouth; it is a small Mission of the Church of England, containing perhaps a dozen families. I visited the place and the neighbourhood frequently. It is a good country, all prairie and very little wooded.

Q. Did you settle there? A. Yes; on the shores of Lake Manitobah, in the vicinity of White-Mud River.

Q. What was the extent of your farm, and how did you get it? A. I staked it out, and declared it my claim, as is the custom in the country. It was a block of about 600 acres.

Q. Did any person molest you or complain of what you had done? A. No.

Q. Were there any trees on your claim? A. Two clumps—of oak chiefly—covering, perhaps, fifty acres of ground; the wood was small. The fire had gone through the edge of the woods.

Q. Does the prairie burn every fall? A. Yes; and then the fire goes some distance into the woods, as far as the grass extends; it does not kill all the trees, but stunts the timber.

Q. Were there any Indians in the neighbourhood? A. Yes, but they made no complaint, though they had done so, I believe, in the case of others.

Q. Do the Indians complain of claims being taken? A. They have on one or two occasions said that they would not allow any persons to settle until the Canadian Government had made some arrangement with them. I have heard them say so.

Q. What tribe of Indians was in your vicinity? A. The Salteaux.

Q. Have the Indians, so far, committed any hostile act? A. There have been a few cases of some cattle having been killed.

Q. Can you get fish in Manitobah Lake? A. Yes, it is a capital lake for fish, further north than my place. The whitefish, however, is not as large or as good—being rather soft—as that caught in Canada.

Q. What is the character of the climate? A. It resembles very much the Canada climate, except that in summer the nights are cool and the weather is never sultry. It is a good country for settlement, and exceedingly healthy—just such a country as I would desire to make my home.

Q. Do you know anything about the crops? A. The wheat crop is excellent.

Q. What is the distance between Lake Manitobah and the Assiniboine? A. About sixteen miles; the actual distance between water and water is less at particular seasons.

Q. Do you know anything about the frost doing harm in summer? A. Not whilst I was in the country. The first frost of any severity comes in September.

Q. How is it possible to fence farms in this country? A. With poplar poles, which can be obtained from the banks of the rivers, though in some cases they have to be drawn for some distance.

Q. Is not the want of fuel a difficulty? A. It will be so shortly.

Q. Is there any peat or coal? A. I never saw any.

Q. Were you in the country at the time of the troubles? A. Yes, all through them; but I left before the execution of Scott.

Q. Were you in the troubles? A. Yes, I was in prison for nearly three months—from Dec. 6 until within a few days of my coming away.

(Hon. Messrs. Miller and Dumouchel doubted propriety of going into subject of existing difficulties. Hon. Mr. McCully said object was simply to enquire into condition and institutions of the country, in order to inform the public thoroughly. Hon. Messrs. Botsford and Christie were of the same opinion.)

Q. Were you among the released prisoners? A. Yes, previous to the arrival of Bishop Taché.

Q. What did you get to eat in the prison? A. Pemmican chiefly, which is the most common food; sometimes we got a little bread, but never any liquor. My health suffered less than that of other prisoners.

Q. Were you obliged to take an oath, too, on being released? A. To keep the peace as long as I remained in the country, but I took no oath of allegiance.

Q. Was there a meeting of delegates whilst you were in prison? A. Yes.

Q. What was the number of delegates? A. About 40—20 from each class.

Q. What is the name of the paper published in the territory? A. The *New Nation*, a weekly, edited by Major Robinson; it is not read much in the settlement; it is controlled by the present Provisional Government.

Q. Do you know anything about some editions having been suppressed? A. There was an edition suppressed before I came away.

Q. What papers are most commonly read in the settlement? A. The *Globe*; I also saw the *Montreal Witness* and *Nouveau Monde*. One copy of the former was retained at the post-office on one occasion.

Q. What is the name of the postmaster? A. Bannatyne.

Q. Are there other post-offices in the country? A. There are some five or six.

Q. How often does the mail go? A. Twice a week.

Q. Who appoints the postmaster? A. The Hudson's Bay Company.

Q. What postage did you pay for a letter from Canada? A. I paid 4d. sterling. I may say the post-offices are really mere branches of the Pembina office. The charge is 1d. between Pembina and Fort Garry, to cover the expense of transportation, &c.

Q. Were any of your letters subject to examination? A. Yes, from the time of the breaking out of the difficulty. It was a common thing for Canadians—the Hudson's Bay Company's letters were never tampered with—to have their letters opened. After the first of December, the letters were kept and I received none, though I knew several were sent to me.

Q. Who is this Bannatyne? A. A Scotchman, formerly a clerk in the employ of the Company. He is no connection of the person who wrote a book relative to the territory.

Q. After the disturbance, did the Hudson's Bay Company give up all their authority? A. Yes, they took no further share in the Government.

Q. What quantity of goods had the Company at Fort Garry? A. A large quantity—a three years' supply, I believe, of trading goods principally. All were seized by the insurgents.

Q. Is liquor much used? A. Yes, I have frequently seen it carried about in buckets.

Q. How many Canadians went into the country last summer? A. From 50 to 100. Some settled at Portage la Prairie, others in town. Many took up lots just as I did.

Q. Did you see Mr. Smith, whilst in the country? A. I saw him after I was released; he never visited us in prison.

Q. Could he have done so had he wished it? A. I imagine so.

Q. Do you know if he made any effort in behalf of the prisoners? A. I don't know of any.

Q. You heard what Mr. Codd said respecting arms? A. Yes, and I agree with what he said.

Q. Did you carry side-arms through the country? A. Yes.

Q. Is game plentiful? A. I saw a great many ducks; I believe there are a good many elk by the Assiniboine. There are plenty of prairie hens, which are larger than western prairie chickens—a cross between the quail and partridge.

Q. Is the water wholesome to drink? A. The water of the rivers is good; but that of the lakes contains a good deal of sediment sometimes about the shores.

Q. What are the horses like? A. Poor and shaggy, with low necks.

Q. What are the cattle like? A. They are very large and fine—the oxen have very long horns. Durham would be an excellent cross. The Hudson's Bay Company, some years ago, imported some excellent stock, but it is nearly run out.

Q. Do they use dogs in the winter? A. Yes, they are commonly used; they are small, long haired animals.

Q. Did you see Riel? A. He had promised me a pass, and I went to get it before I went away. He said that it was not necessary for I would not be molested on my way back.

Q. Are there any drawbacks as respects the settlement of Red River? A. None that may not be surmounted. Want of fuel may be a difficulty at first, but as the country becomes thickly settled timber will be grown. If these troubles are settled I intend going back, and will invite my friends to accompany me. I went to the Red River Territory, with the intention of becoming a settler, if from what I saw of it I considered it a desirable place of residence and favorable to the occupation I designed to follow—that of stock-breeding and farming. I saw the country with the eyes of a practical farmer—of a Canadian who had travelled considerably over this Continent and visited others of the colonies. I saw it during an exceptionally unfavorable summer and autumn and an unusually severe winter. I had ample opportunities of observing those peculiarities which must strike every stranger visiting the country for the first time, and I unhesitatingly give it as my sincerest conviction, that as regards climate; judging from what is prominently noticeable in the general good health and fine physique of the natives, and from my own personal experience, it even possesses many advantages over Canada. The fertility and inexhaustible nature of the soil is superior to that of any other part of the world.

Arthur Hamilton, examined.

Q. What is your name, and where do you reside at present? A. My name is Arthur Hamilton. I was born in New Brunswick, but I have lived for the greater part of my life in Canada. I went out in June, 1869, to Red River.

Q. What is your avocation? A. I am a land surveyor, and I went out in that capacity.

Q. When did you arrive in the territory? A. On the 6th July.

Q. What did you do? A. I was engaged in making surveys and in overseeing the works on the road between Oak Point and the Lake of the Woods. I explored altogether 55 miles. The road in question strikes the north-west angle of the Lake

Q. What is the country between Point du Chêne and Lake of the Woods like? A. It is all timbered, gravelly, sandy ridges, and some swamps. The timber is small—poplar, oak, spruce and tamarac.

Q. How much of the road did you leave completed? A. About 29½ miles from Point du Chêne; about 40 miles have yet to be completed.

Q. Was there anything done to the 40 miles? A. No, it was simply explored.

Q. How many men had you at work? A. About 30 on the average,—half-breeds and Canadians.

Q. What wages did you give them? A. £4 sterling a month and board.

Q. How many miles of swamps had you in the finished portion of the road? A. About 3½ miles.

Q. Did you corduroy the road? A. We fascined it, covered the timber with brush, and sods, and gravel over all. The fascines have sunk so that the timber is down on a level with the surface of the swamp, and consequently lasts longer.

Q. Is the country susceptible of cultivation? A. The soil is much better than it is about Ottawa. There is a good deal of lime in the earth. It is not, however, to be compared with the prairie soil.

Q. Is the remainder of the road equal to what you have already constructed? A. We have made the easiest portion—the remainder will be more expensive, as there is more swamp and more fascining will be necessary.

Q. Is there any limestone? A. There is some limestone gravel occasionally. I have seen a granite rock on one ridge, but it was a boulder and not rock *in situ*.

Q. What is the distance then of the completed road from Fort Garry? A. About 30 miles to Oak Point is over a natural prairie road, then comes 29½ miles of the completed section; or 60 miles that can be travelled with the greatest facility.

Q. Were you in the troubles? A. Yes, I was a prisoner and released on the morning I left.

Q. Where were you captured? A. In Dr. Schultz's house, at the time of the Stone Fort trouble. The Doctor was taken prisoner at the same time.

Q. Had you a pass when you came here? A. I had none.

Q. How did you find the climate compared with Upper Canada? A. The summer was very fine—the days were never unpleasantly sultry, and the nights were cool. The winter was cold and clear—very bracing weather. I did not certainly feel the cold as much as I did in Canada.

Q. Do you know anything about frosts in summer? A. I do not know of any. In the woods, during September, I saw some frost; but I am told that the frosts are much earlier in the woods and swamps, than in the open prairie.

Q. Have you seen any heavy timber in the country? A. I saw some 200 or 300 red pine trees, of good size, near the White-Mud River. There is a good deal of oak, some beach, what is called cypress by the French, but the trees are mostly small.

Q. Were the half-breeds good to work? A. Yes, I was favorably impressed with them; they were able, willing fellows.

Q. Would you be disposed to make your home at Red River? A. I like the climate, and the country is magnificent.

Q. What animals are generally used by the farmers in their work? A. Oxen.

Q. What amount of work would be required to finish the road of which you have been speaking? A. It would take a long while to make a complete road. There is a good deal of cutting to be done, for the timber is down and very dry, and hard to chop. I think, however, 50 men would open up the road sufficient to move over in three or four weeks. Most of the swamps have a gravelly foundation below the water. The country, unfortunately, is difficult to drain, as it is very flat.

Major Boulton, examined :

Q. What is your name, where were you born, and where do you come from now?
A. Charles Boulton ; I am a native of Ontario, and am at present from Red River.

Q. When did you go there? *A.* In August last.

Q. With what part of the country are you most familiar? *A.* I was engaged on Colonel Dennis' survey. We surveyed—I mean my party—10 miles west of Pembina, on the Frontier, straight north to Shoal Lake, we crossed the Assiniboine 14 miles west of Fort Garry. As I have said, we ran north until we struck Shoal Lake. We came back again 9 miles, and cut west into the woods. Col. Dennis then removed us to a point seven miles north of the Assiniboine and we surveyed east towards Red River in the vicinity of the Stone Fort.

Q. Did you meet with any interruptions? *A.* No. We closed our survey about 26th November. Then we were at Stone Fort, traversing the river on both sides.

Q. Were you laying off any lines? *A.* No. We were traversing the river and taking the extent of each farm. However, I was on the sick list then, and not engaged in the work.

Q. What was the nature of the country after you left Pembina on your survey?
A. A prairie country ; as we got near the Assiniboine, we saw clumps of woods. Stinking River is a stream we passed on our way, but we crossed it with our waggons. The French call it La Rivière Salé ; its waters are salty. The banks are pretty fairly wooded. We passed through considerable brush, and came then to some oak on the Assiniboine. The principal part of the land, from the boundary line to the Assiniboine is fit for settlement. The distance is about 64 miles. About Stinking River the country is really beautiful.

Q. How did you manage about water? *A.* We never sunk any wells, and had to send for water a considerable distance, when there were no streams close at hand.

Q. Is it difficult to sink wells? *A.* The people that inhabit the banks get the water they require from the rivers, but there are a few wells. The wells sunk near Red River are good, but there is some mineral matter in the water which makes it hard. I may mention that rose trees and strawberries grow in luxuriance on the higher parts of the prairie, of which I have been speaking. The grass is very nutritive, and during the winter the horses scrape away the snow, to get at it.

Q. What is the nature of the country to the north? *A.* It is in that direction that I saw the first well, away from the river, and it was on a stock farm, and supplied from 250 to 350 head of cattle. The well is 25 feet deep ; after digging into the mud, they found it at last so hard, that they were obliged to blast it. As you run north, the country becomes more stony, and much more wooded. There are no stones on the prairie land. There is sufficient fencing for a limited number of settlers, although not for a large population. Near the Assiniboine, also, there is plenty.

Q. Have you seen fruit-trees growing on the prairie? *A.* No ; one or two gentlemen have lately put out apple trees and they appear to be growing well.

Q. What are the farmers like? *A.* They are a kindly, hospitable people. The work is not hard, and it is easy to make a living by farming.

Q. Have you seen the grain on the harvest fields? *A.* The production along the bank of the river, was certainly wonderful last summer, but grasshoppers have done much harm. Blackbirds are also injurious.

Q. What do you mean by blackbirds? *A.* They come in large flocks and destroy the grain.

Q. Was the crop large last year? *A.* Yes, sufficient to support the settlement for two years, if not for more. I think the yield is far superior to that of Upper Canada. One man raised 1,000 bushels of potatoes in the grasshopper year, though he only planted on the 7th July, at the Portage settlement. It is true they did not reach maturity, but nevertheless they were eatable and sufficient to stave off starvation. The potatoes have not been affected by any disease.

Q. Have the grasshoppers paid frequent visits to the country? A. For the last six or seven years more or less, but it was in 1868 that they committed such havoc. They come in during the fall, and deposit their eggs. Then the young grasshopper comes out in the spring and destroys everything green in its progress.

Q. What is this grasshopper like? A. It is yellow; it flies in the air; the locusts I saw in Africa were a little larger.

Q. What are the farm-houses generally made of? A. Of oak logs.

Q. Is there any means of making brick? A. Some have been made, but of inferior quality. The houses generally contain one or two rooms; others, with more idea of comfort, have two or three rooms.

Q. What is the size of the town of Winnipeg? A. It contains probably forty houses. They farm back about 20 acres altogether; they have no rear line. All their lands have been surveyed and the Hudson's Bay Company have the plans, and it is possible to ascertain the position of the lots.

Q. What kind of municipal regulations have they at Red River? A. The settlement is divided into parishes. The Government is composed of a Governor, and a Deputy-Governor, and a Council of 19 members appointed by the Company from the settlement. At Portage la Prairie they manage their own local affairs. The Selkirk settlement comprises the country within a radius of 50 miles, and the Portage is outside of that range.

Q. Did any difficulty arise from your survey? A. No. It is true these surveys have been made a pretext to influence the people against the Government.

Q. When did you leave the country? A. On the 24th March.

Q. Did any misapprehensions with respect to the surveys get abroad? A. Yes, on account of the ignorance of the people as to their nature. So far as I was concerned, I explained to everybody what we actually were doing, and I had no trouble with any one. My party was not the one that was turned back. When the others arrived on the Red River, they were told that they could not interfere with the settlers' lands. They were simply running across the settlement, just as we were doing. They were surveying south of the Assiniboine and somewhere in the French settlement, Captain Webb had charge.

Q. Have the Hudson's Bay Company exercised any jurisdiction since the breaking out of the insurrection? A. Not since the first of December—if, indeed, previous to that date.

Q. Where you among the prisoners in Fort Garry? A. I was there for about a month.

Q. How were the prisoners treated? A. We were imprisoned in five rooms, opening out into a large hall. Each room was about 14 or 15 feet square, and contained—one 14, another 15, and another 16 prisoners. I had a room to myself. I was under execution at one time. I got nothing but pemmican and water for some days, but at last my friends received permission to send me necessaries, and through their kindness I got everything I wanted. The other prisoners had only pemmican and water, but after a while they were allowed to have bread, butter, and tea sent in by their friends. I was not tried in any way; Riel came in at ten o'clock the day after I was imprisoned, and told me "Major Boulton, you will prepare to die at 12 o'clock to-night." I replied, "Very well, sir." Then, finding I had got myself into a tight place, I asked if I could send for a clergyman, and permission was granted. The excitement became very intense throughout the settlement, and a great many persons—the American Consul among the rest—came to plead for me. The clergyman asked for a reprieve for twenty-four hours, and the request was granted. Next day, about six o'clock, Archdeacon McLean came in and said, "I have seen Riel for the last time, and he told me you could entertain no hope, but that you must die to-night." Then O'Donohue came in, about ten o'clock, and asked if he could do anything for me, and I replied in the negative. I told him that I was glad to see him and say good bye to him, and that I forgave him his part in the matter. I asked him if I would be allowed a funeral, and he replied that he supposed so. Then I

said, "Have the kindness to send me a basin of water to make myself tidy, and a glass of sherry." This was about two hours before the time I was to be shot. Then Riel came in half an hour after and told the Archdeacon that my life would be spared if the settlers would send delegates to the Convention. Mr. Smith then went around and told the people the alternative, and they agreed to send delegates.

Q. Did Mr. Smith come in to see you? A. Yes, after I was released from this sentence. He interested himself very much in my behalf. I think he was under surveillance himself.

Q. Where were you when Scott was shot? A. I was next door to him in prison.

Q. Did you see him shot? A. No, but I heard the volley; I was still confined.

Q. Then your reprieve did not give you immediate liberty? A. I was in prison for nearly a month afterwards; but when Bishop Taché asked, at the first, for the release of one half of the prisoners, the request was granted, and I got off with others. I had, however, to take the oath of allegiance.

Q. What oath of allegiance? A. To support Riel's government; that was the condition on which all the prisoners were let out. Adjutant-General Lepine handed me a book, and asked me simply if I would support the Government. Then I left the country.

Q. Is there any Civil Government in the country, apart from the military organization? A. They are commencing to organize now, since the delegates have met.

Q. Did you leave the settlement immediately after being released from the Fort? A. I remained for two or three days. I went to see Riel, and got a pass from him. We parted on good terms.

Q. Did he wear any insignia of office? A. No.

Q. Is he a man of education? A. Yes, he speaks English very fairly and is fairly educated.

Q. Is he intemperate? A. At times. I believe when Scott and myself were sentenced, he was in a state of excitement from drink. When he first came to see me, however, he was not intoxicated. There is plenty of liquor about the fort; it was rationed to the men.

Q. Does Riel control the Council, or they him? A. I cannot say; Riel I think, exercises controlling influence.

Q. Did the death of Scott produce much sensation? A. Yes.

Q. What kind of man was Scott? A. Intelligent and bold.

Q. What arms were used by the people. A. Fowling pieces, flint locks—very few Henry's.

Q. Did you carry side arms with you? A. Not previously to the troubles.

Q. Did the people live amicably together previous to these troubles? A. To the best of my knowledge they did.

Q. Was there any jealousy respecting strangers coming into the country? A. No; very few, however, came in.

Q. Were there any Americans in the country? A. Some traders.

Q. From your knowledge of the country, how does it compare with Ontario? A. If the lands lying along the rivers that I have seen, are any criterion of the remaining portion of the country, it compares favorably with Ontario.

Q. What do you know about the north? A. I have seen persons from the north Saskatchewan and far West, and their accounts are contradictory. Some say the country is subject to drought, hail storms, and some frost. I have heard other persons describe the Saskatchewan district as most beautiful—rolling prairie chiefly. A large part of the river is navigable during the summer season. There is no settlement worth mentioning in the district.

Q. Is there much drinking in the settlement? A. A good deal, but not much more than I have seen in other places.

Q. Do sheep and pigs flourish in the country? A. Sheep thrive very well, and so do pigs. Sometimes there is a superfluity of the latter, and once the people had to drown a number in the river, for there is only a limited market for surplus production.

Q. What are the feelings of the Indians with respect to settlement? *A.* They expect to make a treaty, and get blankets, provisions, and ammunition in exchange for their land. They don't, however, expect anything for the settled parts of Red River. It is very necessary to pay attention to the claims of the Indians, in order to prevent disputes arising hereafter.

Q. Now, suppose these troubles were settled, would you return to the country to settle? *A.* I left the country with the idea of returning.

Q. Would you recommend immigrants to go into the country? *A.* I would not recommend men to go there with insufficient means. An immigrant with £100 sterling, could manage to get along. If he went in September, it would be a year before he could receive anything from his farm. The best time to leave this country would be in the latter part of July. By going in the spring, he would not be benefited, for the seed time would have passed before he reached the settlement. Five men, with \$100 each, could leave here, buy two horses and a waggon at St. Paul's, and arrive at Fort Garry, in a little over three weeks, with their horses and their waggons still their own. There is no necessity for a guide over the prairie.

TUESDAY, 19th April, 1870.

PRESENT:

The Honorable Mr. McCully, *Chairman.*

"	Botsford.
"	Dickey.
"	Locke.
"	Olivier.
"	Dumouchel.
"	Dickson.
"	Miller.
"	Christie.
"	McClelan.
"	Sanborn.

Dr. John Schultz, examined:

Q. What is your name, occupation, and place of residence? *A.* My name is John Schultz, I am a Doctor of Medicine by profession, and I have resided at Fort Garry, Red River, for nearly ten years.

Q. Where did you reside previously? *A.* In Essex County. I was born in Canada.

Q. Have you practised your profession in the country? *A.* I went into the Red River country to practise medicine, but for most of the time I have been engaged in other business.

Q. What other business? *A.* Fur trading.

Q. With what portions of the country are you acquainted? *A.* I have been through part of the country, between Red River and the Lake of the Woods, but of the lake I know nothing, except what I gathered in coming through this time. To the north, I have been between Winnipeg and Manitobah. I have been up some 70 miles on the Assiniboine.

Q. What is the population of Red River, independently of the Indians? *A.* The general impression is, that the settlement proper has a population of between 10 and 12,000. In this statement I include Indians and half-breeds living in houses.

Q. How do you divide this population? *A.* Four-tenths are French, and the remainder English, Scotch, and a very few Irish.

Q. Has no Census been taken? *A.* There was one before I went there, and if I recollect aright the population was about 8,000.

Q. Do you know much about the Indians? *A.* I do not know much concerning the Sioux, but I have seen a good deal of the Crees.

Q. In what condition were matters previous to the breaking out of the disturbances?

A. The country was pleasant enough to live in—men's rights were generally protected so far as the existing Government could protect them.

Q. What is the climate like? A. It is much colder than Ontario, during some days, but the average cold is not much lower.

Q. What is the lowest grade that you have known by the thermometer? A. As low as 45° at Fort Garry; that is extreme.

Q. What would you call ordinary cold weather? A. I can, perhaps, give you the best idea of the ordinary weather, by telling you that there is hardly a day when the snow does not crackle under foot. We usually have no thaw at all.

Q. What is the ordinary depth of snow? A. About 18 inches; the snow is always dry.

Q. From what quarter do your snow storms generally come? A. Generally from the north-east.

Q. What is the greatest depth of snow that you have ever known? A. About 30 inches; when I left the settlement on the 2nd March, the snow was about 32 inches, and as I came eastward it gradually increased, so that at the head of Lake Superior it was fully 48 inches or 4 feet.

Q. When does the snow generally commence to fall? A. About the tenth of November.

Q. When does spring open? A. Generally about Easter Day, the season is shifting. On the average spring commences between the first and middle of April.

Q. When is seed time? A. There is not much seed put in before 22nd or 22rd April.

Q. Do the farmers fall plough? A. No, they plough altogether in the spring.

Q. Have you had any inundations on Red River? A. Twice, but they are more extensive on the American part of the river.

Q. Does the Assiniboine overflow? A. I do not think so.

Q. Are the banks of Red River wider than formerly? A. There is a perceptible widening, but I do not think that it is sufficient to prevent the possibility of another partial flood. No one now cultivates the flats. The river line of the prairie streams is very winding, there are three miles of river for every single straight line. At the bends are formed flats, often a mile and a half in width, and partly covered with woods, oak predominating. These flats serve for pastures.

Q. What is the heat of summer like? A. Not extreme, it does not often go beyond 95° in the shade.

Q. What is the poplar tree like? A. It is not the true Canadian poplar, it is a tree with a smooth bark and white leaf.

Q. What is the hottest month of the year? A. July.

Q. Did you feel the cold in Red River more than you did in Canada West? A. Although I wore the same clothes that I wore in Essex, I felt the cold less. Red River forms a portion of the highest table land on the Continent, and that fact influences the atmosphere.

Q. Have you much wet weather? A. No,

Q. Are the frosts a drawback to any part of the country? In the vicinity of the large lakes or swampy woods there is greater danger of frost than on the prairie.

Q. How deep does the water freeze? A. From two-and-a-half to three feet in extreme cases, the ice is covered by considerable snow, and that of course prevents the water freezing to a greater depth.

Q. Have you ever noticed alkali deposits on the prairies? A. Yes, small patches; I have never analysed the substance, but it is supposed to be salt, the cattle go and lick it up. These spots occur most frequently in the vicinity of Lake Manitoba.

Q. What is your opinion of the country for settlement? A. I have seen none superior, though I have been in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois.

Q. How deep is the alluvial deposit on the prairie? A. I should say over a foot. We have below it a sort of clay, mixed with sand, called white mud. The White Mud River, one of our best districts for agricultural purposes, is so named on account of the character of the soil.

Q. Is there much difficulty in draining the lands? A. Some portions are very flat and difficult to drain.

Q. Are bricks made in the settlement? A. Last year I brought a brick machine into the country, and made some bricks out of the materials at hand, they were very fair in quality.

Q. Is there any coal in the country? A. I have seen some, brought from the upper part of the Assiniboine, and it appeared to burn very well.

Q. Are thunder storms frequent? A. Not more so than elsewhere.

Q. From what quarter do they generally come? A. From the South-West.

Q. What is the prevalent wind in summer? A. South.

Q. What is the nature of the herbage? A. It is about the same over the country. As you go further from the rivers you meet with the buffalo grass, which is not so long but more nutritious than the ordinary herbage.

Q. How far west do you meet with it? A. Some 20 or 30 miles west of some parts of Red River it is met with in abundance.

Q. Have you noticed the character of the soil there? A. Not particularly.

Q. Is the country subject to fires? A. Usually the whole country is burnt over in the latter part of September.

Q. Do these fires destroy cattle? A. The cattle get away, but the horses are sometimes destroyed.

Q. Are there any wild horses in the country? A. No.

Q. Are you able to speak of the capabilities of the country in respect of grain? A. The average yield is greater than in Canada.

Q. Are the vegetables good? A. Yes, the potatoes especially.

Q. What is the yield of wheat per bushel? A. Last year, about 40 bushels to the acre in some parts. The average probably, however, was not much over 30. The wheat weighs generally over 60 lbs to the bushel. Its weight can be so generally depended upon, that the local regulation makes the bushel measured, not weighed. Oats are about 32 lbs. to the bushel. Barley turns out equally well.

Q. Is fuel plentiful? A. Fuel is plentiful in the settlement, for we are not far from the woods on the edge of the prairie.

Q. What is the price of a cord of wood in the town? A. About five-eighths of an ordinary Canada cord would be a dollar.

Q. What does hay cost? A. 5 shillings sterling for a cart load. The average price is \$4.50 (Canada money,) for a ton, or three cart loads.

Q. Do you keep in your cattle during the winter? A. They do not come in until late, sometimes about Christmas, and are turned out early. They are fed with hay.

Q. How do you keep your hay? A. In large stacks.

Q. What educational facilities have you in the country? A. They are very good for common schools; most of the farming population can read and write. The schools are mostly kept up by the Church Missions. The French are taught by the sisters of charity, who have establishments through the settlements. These schools are also supported from the Church Fund. At St. Boniface the Catholics have a somewhat superior institution, where the higher branches are taught. Many of the French have still roving habits; and it is more difficult to teach them regularly. Bishop Taché has done much good among them since he came into the country, in instructing, &c.

Q. What is the material of the house you live in? A. I have four houses—places of business, my own residence, and another house I let. Two are brick and two wood; but I live in a wooden house myself.

Q. How does the brick stand the weather? One was built of the first brick made, and it was imperfect in some respects; the second brick used was fully satisfactory. The roof of my house is covered with cedar shingles; we get the wood at Point du Chêne, where it grows to a good size—18 inches through.

Q. Is there any pine in the country? A. There is some white pine near the Lake of the Woods.

Q. What point did you leave on your departure from the territory? A. Lower Fort Garry. I came down the Red River to its mouth, struck across the head of Lake Winnipeg to the mouth of Winnipeg River, ascended that river as far as far as Fort Alexander; then I followed the river all the way to Rat Portage, at the entrance of the Lake of the Woods. We had dogs with us, but we had to use them to carry the provisions, and walked on snow-shoes most of the time.

Q. Are there any settlements between Fort Alexander and the Lake of the Woods?
A. No, the only settlement is at the fort itself, where the ground has been cultivated a little.

Q. Did you meet with any Indians? A. Yes.

Q. Did you make any enquiries with respect to their disposition towards the Canadian Government? A. Yes, and I found them well disposed.

Q. To what tribe did they belong? A. The Chippewas, or Ojibways.

Q. Are they expecting any treaty with the Government? A. I had a conversation with the chiefs near the Rainy River, and they told me in effect: We know that our country is not as good as other parts, but we also know that the Canadians must pass through this way, and we hope they will not put boats on the river and scare away the fish and game without giving us some compensation.

Q. Did you see much wood in the vicinity of Rainy River? A. I saw some Norway and white pine, poplar, maple, and cedar.

Q. Is maple sugar made in the country? A. They make it in the neighbourhood of the Lake of the Woods, and Rainy Lake; but it is not a good sugar country. The maple is not the true sugar tree; the sap is not nearly as rich.

Q. What is your opinion of the country about Rainy Lake? A. So far as I could judge there is not more than one-third that would be fit for settlement.

Q. What course did you take after leaving Lake of the Woods? A. I went down to Fort Frances, and then struck off for Duluth.

Q. Would you recommend immigrants to go into the country to settle? A. Yes, in preference to Canada.

Q. Is there any prohibition in trading for furs? A. No, not in force.

Q. Do you think that the Hudson's Bay Company will continue to deal in furs, and keep up their establishments? A. I believe they will in the distant parts of the country.

Q. Is the country healthy? A. Yes, there is an absence of fevers and epidemics. Consumption is, however, common to those of mixed blood—whenever the half-breed marries with the half-breed. Where the white marries the native, the offspring are healthy.

Q. What kind of outfit should an immigrant take with him into the country? A. He should take agricultural implements with him. A man with from £50 to £100 sterling would have no difficulty in making a satisfactory living. If he did not, in nine cases out of ten, it would be his own fault.

Q. Is it a good country for fish? A. Yes, it is very abundant.

Q. Can you catch fish during the winter? A. Yes; lake trout and white fish.

Q. How do you generally catch the fish you require? A. With gill nets in the fall.

Q. How are the civil affairs of the country managed? Suppose a man had a dispute with another, is there a Court where he could get a process against him? A. Yes; in cases of debt there is a Court like the Division Courts in Canada.

Q. What is done in the case of crime? A. There is trial before a judge and jury. In Civil suits, over £5 sterling, come before a jury of 12. These regulations are established by the Hudson's Bay Company. The Portage La Prairie is, however, outside of their jurisdiction, which does not extend beyond a radius of 50 miles.

Q. Do you know the settlement of St. Joseph? A. Yes; it is on the American Territory.

Q. Is there any demand for labour in the settlement? A. Yes, during the harvest season; but, as a rule, every person does his own work.

Q. Are there any mowing or reaping machines in the country? A. Yes; several.

Q. Why did you leave? A. To save my life. I was in prison, and worked my way out with a gimlet and penknife. The building was of wood, and I managed to escape.

Q. Is it your intention to return to the country? A. Yes; and I feel unwilling to say anything that may involve myself in difficulties, and I hope the Committee will not press me on delicate subjects.

THURSDAY, 21st April, 1870.

PRESENT:

The Honorable Mr. McCully, *Chairman*.

" Burnham.

" Botsford,

" Benson,

" Dumouchel,

" Locke,

" Christie,

" Dickey,

" Dickson,

" McClellan,

" Recesor.

Charles Garrett, examined:

Q. What is your name, and where is your residence? A. My name is Charles Garrett, I have recently come from Red River, where I have been living for upwards of 11 years. Previously, I resided in the neighborhood of Toronto and Lake Simcoe. I lived in Canada from 1837 to 1859. I was engaged in farming most of the time, but I kept a hotel at Orillia for a while. I was brought up as a farmer.

Q. In what part of Red River have you been living? A. I have been living at a place called Sturgeon Creek, on the Assiniboine, seven miles from the town of Winnipeg, North side.

Q. Have you a farm there? A. For the last eight years.

Q. What is the extent of your farm? A. I have only 25 acres under tillage; I had a distillery there also.

Q. How did you acquire your place? A. I bought it from a man who had received it in return for certain services to the Hudson's Bay Company; I took a simple transfer from the original proprietor.

Q. Do the Company sell lands now? A. They were selling them up to the time the troubles broke out.

Q. Do they give titles, or merely give a lease? A. They give a lease for 999 years.

Q. Do all the settlers get their land from the Company? A. Very many occupy them by merely going upon them.

Q. As you recede from the river westerly, is the soil good? Yes, a mixture of mould and clay, without stone upon it. The ploughs that go through it are hard to clean.

Q. As you recede from the river, is the soil thinner, or equally as good as that on its banks. A. There are large tracts equally as good, but also some parts very indifferent.

Q. How far have you been? A. To Lake Manitobah.

Q. Have you seen any salt licks? A. Yes; the alkali spots are frequently met with in the vicinity of Manitobah. The salt licks are about four or five acres as a rule.

Q. Does artificial grass grow well? A. Timothy is good, but the dry springs are against the growth of clover.

Q. Does it stand the winter? A. I have seen clover stand for years.

Q. Is there any white clover? A. It is not indigenous to the soil.

Q. Are the wheat crops injured by the cold winds of the north or by mildew? A. No.

Q. When do you sow wheat? A. It is pretty nearly all sown by this time.

Q. When is the frost likely to do damage? A. By the tenth of September, but the harvest is over. I have seen the harvest as early as the first week in August.

Q. Do you know of frost occurring in July? I have seen wheat touched with frost in the month of June.

Q. Do you know the country between Fort Garry and Lake Superior? A. In 1859 I went from Fort William by the way of the Lake of the Woods.

Q. Describe your trip to the Committee? A. When I went to Fort William in May of

1859, I found several young men preparing to go to Red River by the Kaministiquia. We went up the river with the canoe.

Q. Had you a guide with you? A. Yes, but he left us when we got to the Height of Land.

Q. What kind of a canoe had you? A. A large bark canoe, 30 feet long, carrying seven or eight men. We carried it over the portages.

Q. How long did it take you to make the trip? A. We were 23 days from Fort William to the Stone Fort. There were nine of us in all, and we only had provisions with us.

Q. Was the canoe heavy? A. Four hundred pounds at least.

Q. Had any of you been that way before? A. No.

Q. Do you know the country over which the road from the Lake of the Woods to the Fort is being built. A. Yes.

Q. Now, supposing that road was completed, how long would it take to make the trip from Lake Superior? Would it shorten the journey? A. I think it would materially. We left Fort William on the 17th May, and we were five days making Dog Lake, which we crossed, and made a portage of two or three miles until we struck two small lakes, and a river called the Savanne, and it was about this time—24th May—that our guide left us. This river took us into *Mille Lacs*, which we followed, and then we went up a chain of rivers and lakes until we came to Rainy Lake. We crossed the latter in one day to Fort Frances, and reached it on the first of June. We remained at the Fort for one day to repair our canoe, and then continued our voyage up the Rainy River.

Q. Did you camp anywhere on the Rainy River? A. Yes, it is a wooded country, and a good deal of it appears good for cultivation. At the upper end there is chiefly balsam and poplar, and near the mouth there is some oak and other hard wood.

Q. Is the land good in the vicinity of Fort Frances? A. They raised barley, but no wheat for there was no means of grinding it. Potatoes looked well.

Q. Was the season advanced when you passed the place? A. They were ploughing at the Fort, and the trees were in full leaf.

Q. Is the frost in the ground when the ploughing is done? Yes, very frequently. I have seen, when digging a well, frost nine feet deep below the surface, still the crops were growing well. I have seen a similar thing near Toronto, under peculiar circumstances.

Q. When does the frost take firm possession of the ground? A. On the 10th October.

Q. When does farming again commence? A. On the 15th April.

Q. How do you feed your horned cattle in the Spring? A. The grass is very rank, and the cattle will leave their hay and eat it as soon as the snow is off, about the 1st April.

Q. Have you seen persons beyond Portage La Prairie, and north of the Saskatchewan? A. I have heard from reliable authority that the country west of Portage La Prairie to Fort Ellice, and up the Qu'Appelle, is admirable for agricultural purposes; in fact, it has always been considered the finest portion of the country.

Q. What is Pemican? A. The meat it cut into thin flakes and laid upon some brush, under which fire, smouldering in a hole, is placed; when it is dried it is placed in a dressed Buffalo skin and pounded with a flail until it is reduced to pieces and powder. Then melted fat is poured into the pounded mass, which is well stirred, and when the whole becomes cold it is perfectly solid and hard.

Q. Have you raised wheat on your farm? A. I have 400 bushels not yet threshed.

Q. What is the yield to every bushel sown? A. I should say from 22 to 25 for every bushel.

Q. Do oats yield well? A. They are a safe crop, 55 bushels to the acre frequently, barley, peas, potatoes and onions grow well.

Q. You think the country, then, a desirable one for immigrants? A. Yes, most decidedly, I have never seen one which I would prefer for farming.

Q. Do you know anything about the more distant portions of the North-West country? A. I have heard it stated that by the McKenzie River the spring is a fortnight earlier than with us, and it is the finest part of the country for settlement.

Q. Have you seen any coal in the country? A. Yes, from the upper part of the Assiniboine, about three days' journey, 80 or 90 miles from Portage La Prairie.

FRIDAY, 22nd April, 1870.

PRESENT :

The Honorable Mr. McCully, *Chairman*

" " Botsford,
 " " Christie,
 " " Locke,
 " " Sanborn,
 " " Dickey,
 " " Miller,
 " " McClelan,
 " " Reesor,
 " " Benson,
 " " Olivier,
 " " Dumouchel,
 " " Burnham,
 " " Letellier de St. Just.

Examination of Charles Garrett continued :

Q. How does the expense of house building in Red River compare with the same in Canada? A. Timber is more expensive, and so are nails; the freight on the latter alone is four cents a pound.

Q. What is the ordinary price of a pound of nails? A. You cannot get them less than 20 cents.

Q. What would be the expense of a house that would cost \$500 in Ontario? A. About double. Lumber is \$40 a thousand, lime is about 18 cents a bushel, labor is about the same.

Q. What is the price of shingles? A. They cost about \$4 per M.

Q. Are stoves common in the country? A. Yes, we use the Canada stove; the price for a box stove of an ordinary size is \$16. I paid \$14 str. for a large cooking stove that I could have got for \$50 or \$55 in Ontario. Stoves, now, are all imported from Canada, as the people can get them there cheaper than in the States. Boots, shoes and woollen goods also come from Canada, in bond.

Q. Is there a fixed rate for carriage from St. Cloud? A. Yes, 16s a cwt. to the settlement.

Q. What are the duties at Winnipeg? A. There is a tax of four per per cent levied on all goods.

Q. What is the price of a tavern keeper's license? A. Ten pounds sterling a year.

Q. To whom are the taxes paid? A. To the Hudson's Bay Company; they are used for roads and bridges, and other public purposes.

Q. Who authorizes public improvements? A. The Council of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Q. Has the distribution of the public funds been satisfactory? A. Yes.

Q. What would you recommend an emigrant to take with him into the country? A. At St. Paul's he should buy a waggon and horses to transport himself and family, and his plough and agricultural implements that he must take with him.

Q. What is the best plough to take? A. A light steel mould plough is the best for the soil.

Q. Would it be advisable to take oxen with him? A. It would be better, perhaps, for they are always worth their price.

Q. What is the best time of the year to go into the country? A. In the latter part of May, and the month of October, he can always travel well; it would take a team about 20 days from St. Cloud.

Q. What season would you recommend as the best? A. As early as possible—the month of May—for he can build a house, and plough the land ready for the spring. It is not usual to plough land and sow it the same season.

Q. In breaking up the soil, is it usual to go deep? A. No.

Q. Is the frost out of the ground when the ploughing commences? A. No, they begin as soon as the snow is off.

Q. What class of mechanics is most in demand? A. Carpenters.

Q. What are the wages of mechanics? A. Carpenters all last summer were getting 10s. a day; plasterers, about the same; for stone masons, there is no demand.

Q. Is brick made in the country? A. Dr. Schultz has made some, but I don't think they will stand very well; they are well burned, but there is something wanting in the clay.

Q. What are chimneys made of? A. Some are built of brick, others of mud.

Q. Do you know anything about the floods? A. There are no floods on the Assiniboine. There was a partial flood on the Red River in 1861; a greater one took place some years previously.

Q. Is there any immigration into the country? A. It has been increasing very much since I went there.

Q. Are there good educational facilities in the country? A. Yes; the schools teach the ordinary branches, and are supported for the most part by the churches.

Q. Is it your intention to return to the country? A. Yes.

Q. Were you among the prisoners at Fort Garry? A. I was a prisoner for 70 days, and then I was freed, and got a pass to leave the country.

Q. Are there any mills in the country? A. Both wind and steam mills—of the latter, one is in the town of Winnipeg, and the other at Sturgeon Creek.

Q. What is the toll exacted? A. I have had 11 or 12,000 bushels ground at the steam mill, and I paid at the rate of 1s. a bushel. The same person generally takes a fourth or fifth. The price of wheat, at the time of which I am speaking, was from 8s. to 10s. which is above the ordinary price, or 4s.

Q. What is the toll now—the same? A. Since there is more competition, I think a sixth is taken. The wind mills do not exact as much. The water mills that run in summer take a 9th.

Q. What is the rate of interest in that country? A. I think from 8 to 10 per cent. per annum.

Q. Is there sufficient money for business purposes? A. There has been sufficient until the present time. The notes of the Hudson's Bay Company have been always the principal currency of the settlements.

Q. How would you divide the 12,000 of population in the Red River District? A. I think about one-third is French—the others are the English-speaking people.

Monday, 25th April, 1870.

PRESENT:

The Honorable Mr. McCully, Chairman.

" " Olivier.

" " Dumouchel.

" " Letellier de St. Just.

" " Dickson.

" " Sanborn.

" " Locke.

" " McClelan.

" " Christie.

" " Reesor.

Charles Mair, examined:

Q. What is your name? A. Charles Mair.

Q. Where do you come from now? A. From Red River, where I went two years ago as paymaster on the Fort Garry section of the Red River road.

Q. Where were you born? A. I am a native of the County of Lanark, Canada.

Q. With what part of Red River are you familiar? A. From a point 60 miles east from Fort Garry, to 120 or 130 miles west. I have crossed the Assiniboine at two different points—one 130 miles west from Fort Garry—and know the country between that river and Pembina and St. Joseph—half-breed settlements on the frontier. It is a beautiful, rolling country, and well timbered.

Q. What is the character of the growth of timber? A. Not extensive; a series of clumps, interspersed with prairie; poplar generally, with some stunted oak and white birch.

Q. How did the country far from the river compare with the lands on its banks? A. Rich, so far as I could judge.

Q. Did you meet with Indians? A. Some Chippewas; but there are not many Indians in that part of the country. We came to one lodge where they had killed 11 moose and elk, 8 jumping deer, and 2 bears, and saw their offerings to Manitou on the trees.

Q. Are there any wild bees in the country? A. I have seen none.

Q. Is there wood enough for ordinary purposes? A. Yes; about one tenth of the land is covered with wood, though it is small.

Q. Did you meet with many lakes and streams? A. Very few; the country is not well watered.

Q. How did you get your water? A. We could always get it by travelling for it.

Q. Was there any difficulty in taking waggons over the country? A. No.

Q. Have you seen many birds? A. Yes, all the Canadian birds, besides the magpie which is very abundant.

Q. Are there any rabbits in the country? A. They get very scarce every six or seven years, and then they become very plentiful once more. They are affected by some disease of the neck that kills them off periodically. They are not rabbits in the real sense of the term, but a species of small hare.

Q. You say you have seen all the Canadian birds in the country? A. Yes.

Q. Have you geese? A. Yes, including the Artic goose, all white; I have seen them sometimes on the ground, just like snow. I have seen all the aquatic and land birds except the woodcock and quail.

Q. Have you squirrels in the country? A. Yes, but it is smaller than the Canada squirrel.

Q. Have you been over the country between the Manitobah Lake and the Assinniboine? A. Yes; it is a fine country. I have taken up handfuls of vegetable loam at a depth of six feet on the prairies.

Q. Have you seen any coal deposits? A. Yes; it is used at Fort Edmonton and at Fort Gary in the Forges; it appeared friable, when I looked at it, from exposure. The deposits have been on fire several times. It is considered good coal. It is brought from the Souris river, 180 miles west.

Q. Would there be any difficulty in navigating the Assinniboine with a steamboat? A. The river is very shallow; its bed is sandy and shifting.

Q. Is it navigable as far as Portage La Prairie? A. Yes. The river might be dredged, and in that way improved.

Q. What is the width of the Assinniboine? A. At the widest parts you cannot throw a stone across it; it is narrow at the mouth and deeper.

Q. Does the river rise much with rains? A. It is highest in the month of June.

Q. Do you know anything about the crops of the country? A. I have known as many as 65 or 70 bushels of wheat grown to the acre; the average yield, I have heard, placed at 40. I may say that a farmer going from Canada to Red River considers he has found a better country than he has left. On the other hand, a Red River farmer is disappointed with the soil of the Western States; he considers it thinner and poorer.

Q. Do you propose returning to the country? A. Yes.

Q. Have you heard if the soil requires renewing often? A. Wheat has been grown in the same soil for 40 years, and succeeds. The farmers never use manure.

Q. What is the extent of the rainfall in that country? A. It is lighter than here; the rain cloud is supposed to discharge on the Cascade range.

Q. Did you find the cold affect you? A. Not so much as in Canada.

Q. What boats do they use for transportation? A. The Mackinaw boat, about 30 feet long—clinker-built—carrying ten men. These boats are used between York Factory and Fort Gary.

Q. Is fish plentiful in the country? A. Yes; there are white fish, sturgeon, goldfish—the latter about the size of a herring, and very delicious.

Q. Would there be any difficulty in opening a rail route from Fort Garry to St. Paul's?
A. No; the country in N.W. Minnesota is somewhat hilly; but that between Pembina and Winnipeg is quite level.

Q. Will it be difficult to find ties? A. No, the rivers and lakes are invariably fringed with wood.

Q. Is the soil of the prairie soft? A. It dries up remarkably quick after rains, and is naturally hard and firm. One yoke of oxen breaks up the turf of the prairie in the North-west country. The turf appears more friable than elsewhere.

Q. Are there many sheep in the settlement? A. I understand there are 4,000 altogether. I should say it would be an admirable country for sheep. There is no danger from wolves or other wild animals.

The Chairman submitted the following correspondence to the Committee; after it had been read, it was unanimously ordered to embody it in the Minutes of Evidence

THE PASSAGE OF IMMIGRANTS INTO RED RIVER.

NORTHERN RAILWAY OF CANADA,

MANAGING DIRECTORS' OFFICE,

TORONTO, 19th April, 1870.

The Honorable Senator McCully, Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant having reference to the passage of emigrants from Toronto to Fort William.

We have, in connection with this Railway, a "Lake Superior Royal Mail Line" of side wheel steamers, leaving Collingwood (our Northern terminus) on the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th of each month (i.e. every five days), on the arrival of our morning trains: so that the passenger proceeds direct from the train to the steamer without delay.

The distance from Toronto to Fort William may be stated at 800 miles, of which 94 is by railway, and the balance by steamer. Emigrants arriving from the eastward connect direct with our trains, either from Grand Trunk Railway or by the Lake steamers.

The time from Toronto to Fort William may be stated on the average as four days; the journey from Collingwood to the Sault St. Marie being entirely in sheltered waters.

The rate for passage of emigrants will, during this season, be \$7 (seven dollars), from Toronto to Fort William, either singly or in numbers—one rate all round, in consequence of the great difficulty and frequent disappointments arising from separate rates by numbers.

I think the above covers the ground of your enquiries. If I can afford you any further information pray command me:

I am, my dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

ALEX. CUMBERLAND.

RED RIVER.

SENATE CHAMBER,

OTTAWA, 20th April, 1870.

DEAR JUDGE BLACK,—The Senate Committee is summoned for to-morrow, 21st, at 10 a.m.

Could you make it convenient to spare us half an hour or so, and meet us punctually at 10 a.m? An answer will oblige.

Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. McCULLY, *Chairman.*

Reply.

RUSSELL HOUSE,
OTTAWA, 20th April, 1870.

The Honorable Mr. McNully.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your esteemed note of this morning, I beg to say that, owing to a variety of circumstances, I cannot well attend the meeting of your Committee to-morrow; and—indeed, as I am sure you can yourself easily understand—my time is so much occupied with other important matters, that I cannot but take the opportunity of adding, that I should be glad to be entirely relieved from attendance.

With much respect, I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. BLACK.

